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# 1 Executive Summary



This is the FSA's second Simplification Plan. It reports on progress in generating the savings promised in the our first Simplification Plan 2006/07<sup>1</sup> published in December 2006, and on new initiatives identified since. All of our simplification measures are designed to ensure that we continue to deliver our statutory objective of protecting public health and consumers' other interests but in ways which avoid unnecessary burdens on private, public and third sectors. We develop regulations, or alternative approaches in order to ensure this protection.

Some regulation is necessary. However, we believe that if regulations are made simpler and therefore easier to understand the level of compliance will increase and deliver improved consumer protection.

Over 90 per cent of FSA-led legislation originates in the European Union. We implement this using our framework for regulatory decision making<sup>2</sup> which sets out the factors taken into consideration in deciding on regulatory intervention and the different options available. For example the FSA's *Safer Food, Better Business* scheme helps small retail and catering businesses comply with the EU food hygiene requirements in an effective and proportionate way, whilst maintaining public health and consumer protection.

Our 2006/07 Plan promised to generate savings of over £195 million. This year's Plan reports on how the we have delivered and progressed these initiatives and where we have delivered simplification gains promised. This Plan estimates total simplification savings of up to £448 million. Of this £232 million are savings for business, including £16 million in administrative burden reductions, and £216 million for the public sector. The Plan also reports on further planned simplification measures which will deliver estimated savings of up to £60 million in future years and further reductions are planned.

Administrative burden reduction is an important part of the FSA's Simplification programme and the first chapter of the Plan reports on progress. The FSA's reduction target of £136 million by May 2010 is a challenging one, but one that we believe is still achievable. Reducing the administrative burden of regulations takes time, particularly for the FSA when such a high proportion of food legislation originates in the European Union, but progress has been made. The revised traceability guidance, which we published in July 2007, delivered administrative burden savings of £16 million to business.

Reduction of administrative burdens is only one part of our rolling Simplification programme and this Plan describes a wide range of other initiatives to benefit business and the enforcement community. The enforcement procedures developed by the FSA and local authorities have reduced the inspection burdens for farmers who are members of recognised farm assurance schemes, with savings of £300,000 each year for around 60,000 farmers. We also removed the need for farms to register their premises under the EU food

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/simplan.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/FSAreframework.pdf>

hygiene regulations, saving an estimated £1.4 million. We are very aware of the need to minimise burdens on small food businesses, and initiatives to reduce the burdens on small slaughterhouses and the sector specific review are examples of how we are helping this sector.

Simplification should not only deliver benefits for business, but also for other stakeholders. The Plan reports on work to reduce the burden on the public sector, with estimated savings of £216 million. The requirement to reduce official veterinary presence in cutting plants has saved the Meat Hygiene Service £2.3 million. For the third sector we are negotiating with the EU to maintain a food labelling exemption for charities.

The results of three studies highlighted in last year's Plan are reported on: a review of the forms businesses are required to complete by the FSA; a review of FSA guidance for businesses and a sector specific study which looked at the concerns of small-scale butchery and craft bakery businesses to do with hygiene approvals and labelling. While the focus of the Plan is largely on England, the FSA is a UK-wide organisation and these studies have taken account of the FSA's work around the UK. In addition the risk-based shellfish testing scheme in Scotland is a good example of how the FSA is pursuing better regulation initiatives across the UK.

The FSA recognises the importance of working in partnership with others to achieve simplification gains, particularly with the European Commission and other Member States and with other Government departments and this is reflected in the Plan.

This Plan could not have been developed without the contribution of stakeholders and we are grateful for their support. The FSA is keen to reduce unnecessary burdens on business, enforcement partners and the third sector and can do this only if we are told about them. Suggestions are always welcome and we follow up all we receive. The Plan sets out how suggestions can be made.

Consumers should be the ultimate beneficiaries of our simplification work. By making it easier for business to comply with regulations then they are more likely to do so. Better compliance means increased protection for consumers.



Deirdre Hutton  
Food Standards Agency

December 2007

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Continuing our commitment to regulatory simplification

The statutory objective of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is to protect public health and consumers' other interests in relation to food and drink. We develop regulations, alternative approaches, and the means by which these are enforced and championed, in order to ensure this protection.

However, the FSA is aware of the burdens that regulation and enforcement can place on business, the public and third sectors. We know from our previous experience that it is possible, across a range of areas, to reduce both administrative and policy burdens without compromising public health or consumer protection. Indeed, we believe that where simplifying the rules reduces burdens, making it easier for businesses to understand and act on legal requirements, this should make it easier for businesses to comply and should boost consumer protection.

The new framework for European food regulation implemented in recent years puts the onus for compliance with regulation quite clearly – and, in our view, quite properly – on food business operators. We believe that, by using risk assessment to inform decisions on an appropriate level of intervention in food businesses, we can reduce the burden on those businesses that are compliant. The FSA is increasing the scope for effective regulation through means other than physical inspection for those food businesses that have good systems and a demonstrably good record. For example through formally recognising the level of consumer protection delivered through independently-audited industry standards and quality assurance schemes. This should provide an opportunity for our enforcement partners to resource food enforcement in businesses with high and poorly-controlled risks, and advice and education services for small and medium enterprises to aid compliance.

### 2.2 Introducing the FSA's second Simplification Plan

This is the FSA's second Simplification Plan. It reports on how we have delivered and extended the initiatives in our first Plan<sup>3</sup>, published in December 2006, and where we have delivered the simplification gains we promised for stakeholders. The overall simplification programme being undertaken by Whitehall departments is focussed on England. In this plan we also report on some of our analogous initiatives in other parts of the UK.

The FSA's first Simplification Plan included a number of simplification initiatives that promised to save the public and private sectors over £195 million in administrative and policy costs. This Plan reports on the FSA's achievements since in delivering estimated simplification savings of nearly £448 million including £16 million in administrative burden reductions. It also identifies further potential savings of up to £60 million from simplification initiatives still in progress.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/simplan.pdf>

In some cases the simplification gains we hoped for have not been realised as quickly as planned – in such cases we have explained why. No simplification initiatives have been abandoned.

## Better Regulation Terminology



Over 90% of FSA-led legislation comes from the European Union (EU). Therefore, in a number of cases the only way that we can deliver meaningful simplification for our stakeholders is to engage with our colleagues at the European Commission (EC) and in other Member States. This Plan sets out a number of areas where we have engaged, and continue to engage, with the EC to deliver such simplification now and for the future.

The Plan also details a number of new initiatives which have been started since last year's Plan. We have maintained our objective of focusing on reducing policy costs and administrative burdens, while not changing the policy objectives where they are essential for public health and consumer protection. Our initiatives promise further reductions in administrative and policy savings for both the public and private sectors.

## 2.3 Structure of the Plan

Chapter 3 reports on how the FSA is reducing administrative burdens on business. It highlights the work we have done since the last Plan and where administrative burdens have been reduced. It also describes further action we are taking to reduce the costs of our most burdensome regulations. It includes a trajectory showing how we are aiming to reduce these burdens to a target equivalent to 25 per cent below our May 2005 baseline by May 2010.

Reducing the administrative burden of regulations on business is just one part of the FSA's rolling programme of regulatory simplification. The rest of the Plan is focussed on other simplification initiatives that benefit business (Chapter 4), and better regulation measures the FSA is pursuing for the benefit of the wider public sector, primarily the enforcement community (Chapter 5), and the third sector (Chapter 6).

Chapter 7 reports progress on three reviews commissioned following the FSA's first simplification plan – on forms, on guidance, and on the burdens of regulation in specific sectors. The Plan also recognises that to achieve simplification gains in many areas we need to work in partnership with others, particularly with the EC and other Member States as the overwhelming majority of food law derives from the EU (Chapter 8), and with other Government departments on issues that cross departmental boundaries (Chapter 9).

Chapter 10 of this Plan stresses the importance of engaging and collaborating with stakeholders in driving forward better regulation. In particular, it reports on the major stakeholder event held by the FSA in June 2007.

Finally in Chapter 11 there are a number of tables which show in detail the simplification measures delivered, measures in the pipeline, and new measures we have identified. For example:

- we have reduced by nearly £16 million the administrative burden to business of keeping records of who supplied the food they are handling and to whom they are distributing the goods (see Chapter 3 and Table A, item 11); and
- the Plan also identifies the work we are doing with the EU to consolidate legislation on food additives, with potential savings of over £1 million for business (see Chapter 8 and Table B, item 5).

We recognise that simplification should deliver benefits not only for business, but for other stakeholders too. This Plan therefore gives equal weight to our work on reducing the burden for the wider public sector. For example the requirement to reduce official veterinary presence in cutting plants has saved the Meat Hygiene Service £2.3 million (as well as significant savings for industry – see Table A, item 6). We are considering the results of a consultation on retaining an exemption allowed under labelling legislation which if not retained would have a significant impact on the third sector (see Chapter 6).

## 2.4 Summary of delivered measures

The simplification initiatives identified in this Plan have generated nearly £448 million in savings, summarised in the tables below.

Table 1: Summary of delivered simplification savings up to October 2007

Sector	Policy Cost Saving*	Administrative Burden Reduction*	Total Savings*
Private	£ 216.0m	£15.6m	£ 231.6m
Public Sector	£ 216.0m	£ 0.2m	£ 216.2m
Total	£ 432.0m	£15.8m	£ 447.8m

\* Figures are rounded

Table 2: Where the simplification savings have come from

Simplification Measure	Private Sector	Public Sector	Where further detail can be found in the Plan
Replacement of the Over Thirty Month rule	£78.4m	£213m	Table A, item 1
Discontinuation of butchers' licensing	£1.376m		Table A, item 2
Development of GRAIL (Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation) database		£0.018m	Table A, item 3
Changes in specified risk material (SRM) controls <sup>4</sup>	£5m		Table A, item 4
Incorporating the work of the Wine Standards Board (WSB) into the Food Standards Agency		£0.110m	Chapter 5 and Table A, item 5
Reduced Official Veterinary (OV) Presence in Cutting Plants.	£1.3m (total reduction in fees to cutting plants, part of which is due to reduced OV presence)	£2.3m	Table A, item 6
Safer Food Better Business	£128m		Chapter 3 and Table A, item 7
New enforcement regime for farms	£0.301m	£0.580m	Table A, item 8
New registration regime for farms <sup>5</sup>	£1.466m	£0.213m	Table A, item 9
Removal of botulism restrictions in cattle	£0.150m		Table A, item 10
Production of UK Guidance Notes for Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (Traceability)	£15.6m		Chapter 3 and Table A, item 11
Consolidation of bottled water regulations	£0.008m		Chapter 4 and Table A, item 12

<sup>4</sup> UK figure<sup>5</sup> One-off costs

## 3 Progress on reducing administrative burdens

### 3.1 Our baseline and targets

In 2005, the FSA participated in a cross-Government exercise to measure the administrative burden of its regulation. The results of the exercise provided the FSA with a baseline which could be used as an indicator for monitoring these burdens on business.

In June 2007 the FSA reaffirmed its commitment to reduce the total administrative burden imposed by its regulation from £91 million as at May 2005, to no more than £68 million by 2010 – a net reduction of 25 per cent.

Since the baseline was set in May 2005, the introduction of new European hygiene legislation for food and feed has seen FSA's administrative burden rise to approximately £205 million (see Table 3). To achieve its reduction target the FSA will now need to find £136 million of administrative burden savings. The FSA believes that this is a very challenging aim, but that it is too early to conclude it is not achievable.

Table 3: Chronology of administrative burden changes 2005 - 2007

Description	Administrative Burden*
Initial Administrative Burden Total	£86 million
Additional regulations omitted from original baseline calculation	£ 5 million
<b>Total Administrative Burden in May 2005</b>	<b>£91 million</b>
Regulations introduced between May 2005 and May 2007	£165 million
Regulations that have been revoked between May 2005 and May 2007	(£52 million)
<b>Total Administrative Burden in May 2007</b>	<b>£205 million</b>

\* Figures rounded to the nearest £million

For additional information on the regulations that have been introduced or revoked between May 2005 and May 2007 please see Tables D and E in section 11.

## 3.2 Where the burdens lie

Over 90 per cent of the FSA's administrative burden is captured in the top ten most burdensome sets of regulations. Table 4 sets out the current top ten most burdensome regulations, reflecting the significant changes there have been to the FSA's legislation landscape since May 2005. We recognise that each of these regulations has a legitimate and overriding purpose in terms of protecting public health or the other interests of consumers. However, we also recognise that these objectives could in some cases be delivered more efficiently. For the FSA to meet its reduction target we will need to focus our efforts on the administrative requirements of these regulations, with the aim of ensuring they are the minimum needed to deliver the purpose of the legislation.

Table 4 – Top ten pieces of legislation that place the highest administrative burden on business<sup>6</sup>

Regulation Name	Purpose	Administrative Cost*
1. Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and 853/2004 on the Hygiene of Food	Consolidated legislation that applies effective and proportionate hygiene controls throughout the food chain, from primary production to sale or supply to the final consumer. The regulations focus controls to ensure public health protection.	£90 million
2. EC Regulation 183/2005 on Feed Hygiene	Legislation to address feed safety concerns and help avoid feed contamination incidents.	£72 million
3. Food Labelling Requirements <sup>7</sup> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Labelling Regulations 1996</li> <li>• Food (Lot Marking) Regulations 1996</li> <li>• Meat Products (England) Regulations 2003</li> <li>• Various other product specific Regulations</li> </ul>	Legislation that establishes a common system of food labelling throughout the European Community.	£22 million
4. Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the General principles and requirements of food law	Legislation that lays down the general principles and requirements of food law, in particular traceability of food.	£16 million

<sup>6</sup> Administrative burdens include the costs of any information obligations introduced by subsidiary codes of practice, insofar as these information obligations are then required under law.

<sup>7</sup> The administrative requirement to label food with certain information is spread over 30 separate Statutory Instruments (SIs). Using the Standard Cost Model approach was not easy to capture the cost of labelling – some labelling requirements were split over different SIs or intrinsically linked to others. However, the Administrative Burdens Measurement Exercise (ABME) estimated that the total annual administrative burden cost to business of food labelling contained in FSA legislation – after removing the costs that businesses would incur even if the Regulations did not exist ('business as usual') – is approximately £22 million.

Regulation Name	Purpose	Administrative Cost*
5. Feeding Stuffs (England) Regulations 2005	Legislation that sets the provisions on the composition, labelling and marketing of animal feeds.	£2.0 million
6. Quick-frozen Foodstuffs Regulations 2007	Legislation that sets the quality standards for food labelled a 'quick frozen', including proper temperature control procedures.	£0.6 million
7. Fishery Products (Official Control Charges) (England) Regulations 2006	Legislation that sets out the charging provisions for hygiene inspections of fishery products to ensure they meet the hygiene standards set down in the EU hygiene legislation.	£0.5 million
8. The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (No 2) Regulations (Amendment) 2007	Legislation that implements the EC rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.	£0.3 million
9. The Meat (Official Controls Charges) (England) Regulations 2006	Regulations that set the charging regime for meat hygiene official controls at approved meat establishments.	£0.1 million
10. The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) (No.2) Regulations 2006	Regulations that lay down the rules relating to material that comes into contact with food to reduce the risks from chemical contamination.	£0.4million
<b>TOTAL OF TOP TEN REGULATIONS</b>		<b>£204 million</b>
All other FSA Regulation		£1 million
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN</b>		<b>£205 million</b>

\* Figures rounded

### 3.3 FSA programme of work to reduce administrative burdens

Last year, the FSA identified projects that would deliver significant administrative burden reductions for business for many of the top costing administrative requirements contained in the regulations. Projects include:

Regulation	Measure	Burden as estimated in the ABME <sup>8</sup>	Potential Administrative Burden Reduction
Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and 853/2004 on the Hygiene of Food	Safer Food, Better Business	£81 million burden of implementing and maintaining a permanent procedure or procedures based on the HACCP principles.	Savings from rolling out Safer Food, Better Business to small and medium businesses that prepare food are expected to be in the region of £40-50 million.
Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the general principles and requirements of food law.	UK guidance on businesses' obligations under Article 18 of EU General Food Law on traceability.	£16 million burden of keeping records to identify who has supplied a food, feed, food producing animal, or any substance intended or expected to be incorporated into a food/feed.	Saving from new guidance that separates the legal requirements from best practice is £15.6 million.
Food Labelling Requirements	FSA is feeding into the EC's review on food labelling to prevent the introduction of additional administrative costs and, where possible, to use guidance and good practice initiatives to reduce existing administrative costs.	The additional administrative burden imposed by the legal labelling requirement is estimated at around £9 million annually <sup>9</sup> .	The EC is proposing a new Regulation that will simplify and reduce the administrative burden of food labelling requirements. The new Regulation has the potential significantly to reduce the £9 million.

<sup>8</sup> ABME – Administrative Burdens Measurement Exercise

<sup>9</sup> This figure excludes the estimated administrative burden of the Meat Product (England) Regulations 2003 and the Food (Lot marking) Regulations 1996 which have separate entries

Regulation	Measure	Burden as estimated in the ABME	Potential Administrative Burden Reduction
Meat Products (England) Regulations 2003	In addition to the EU labelling review the UK is consulting on the labelling requirements on meat products.	£11 million burden of labelling meat products	Unable to quantify at this time

In addition to the projects listed above, this year the FSA has also identified new projects that have the potential to reduce the administrative burden on business:

Regulation	Measure	Burden as estimated in the ABME	Potential Administrative Burden Reduction
EC Regulation 183/2005 on Feed Hygiene.	Further measurements on the initial administrative burden figures and EU guidance on requirements.	Initial administrative burden figures estimate the burden to be approximately £72 million.	Unable to quantify at this time.
The Food (Lot Marking) Regulations 1996.	Exploring with stakeholders and the European Commission the implications of withdrawing the lot marking directive.	£4.7 million burden of marking all products with a lot number.	Potential for removing £4.7 million.
The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Regulations 2008.	Reclassification of 'specified risk material' leading to a reduction in certain authorisation administrative requirements.	The total administrative cost of all the TSE Regulations is estimated to be £300 thousand.	Saving of £130 thousand annually.

### 3.3.1 Safer Food, Better Business (SFBB)<sup>10</sup>

FSA's largest administrative burden from any single piece of legislation is that stemming from Article 5 of the EC Regulation 852/2004 (Food Hygiene Regulations). This is the requirement for businesses to keep records of their food safety management system. The requirement focuses on identifying the 'critical points' in a process where food safety problems (or 'hazards') could arise and putting steps in place to prevent things going wrong (HACCP)<sup>11</sup>. HACCP enables business to demonstrate their commitment to the production and supply of safe food which improves consumer confidence in the safety of food. It should also lead to reduction in food borne diseases. As reported in last year's Simplification Plan the FSA has developed innovative guidance called Safer Food, Better Business (SFBB) that allows small businesses to comply with this requirement in an effective and proportionate way.

**I would recommend SFBB to any business, it has helped us take the step from good to excellent without being too time consuming.**

**Doncaster Rugby Club**

In September 2005 the first stage of SFBB - guidance for caterers - was launched and since then more than 260,000 packs have been distributed. Following feedback from stakeholders in September 2006 the catering pack was updated. Building on the success with the catering industry in May 2006 the FSA launched SFBB for small food retailers. To date 45,000 packs have been distributed to small and medium sized food retailers.

In March 2007 FSA launched its cuisine specific guidance helping businesses that produce Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan food. Over 25,000 cuisine specific packs of SFBB have been distributed nationally. Further roll out of sector specific guidance of SFBB for those catering for vulnerable groups – care homes and childminders – is planned for early 2008.

**I believe the pack has made my business stronger and more professional. It could do this for the curry sector as a whole if everyone has one.**

**Indian restaurant, London.**

In addition, in early 2008 FSA will launch a DVD training tool to complement the packs. The DVD presents the key SFBB principles in 16 different languages to help simplify the legal requirements for those who run or work in small food businesses for whom English may not be their first language.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/hygleg/hyglegresources/sfbb/>

<sup>11</sup> Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points

By March 2008 the FSA expects, through the grants FSA is providing to local authorities in England, that over 50,000 small businesses will have received face-to-face support on implementing SFBB.

The FSA believes that the education and guidance that small businesses are receiving significantly reduces the administrative burden of the hygiene procedures recording requirement. The FSA estimates savings to be approximately £48 million compared to the costs that businesses would have accrued without SFBB. We expect these savings to increase as familiarity and confidence with the process increases.

**'I would recommend the pack. It is simple, and everything is provided for you to complete. SFBB is practical, and I like the diary as, instead of having lots of bits of paper, everything is in one place.'**

**Bistro One, Plymouth**

### 3.3.2 Traceability

The administrative burdens measurement exercise identified that a significant burden of some £16 million on business arose from the requirements in EU general food law and associated guidance on traceability requirements. The law requires a food business to keep records of who supplied the food they are handling and to whom they are distributing the goods. The FSA consulted with stakeholders in early 2007. The response was overwhelmingly that the majority of the cost resulted from administrative burdens that had been introduced as a result of gold-plating by the EC in its guidance.

To reduce this burden the FSA published in July 2007 its own guidance note<sup>12</sup> making it clearer to business what is required by law and what is 'best practice'. We recognised that the ideal would be to ensure that the guidance did not introduce any burdens above and beyond those introduced in the legislation – effectively reducing the £16 million administrative burden of the EU guidance to zero.

**We welcome the FSA Guidance Notes which further strengthen the advice to the Local Authorities and food trade.**

**East Ayrshire Council**

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/foodguid/generalfoodlaw>

The principal changes in the new FSA Guidance Notes compared with the EC Guidance are:

- a greater discretion to food businesses over time requirements for keeping traceability records;
- a change in the need for immediate production of traceability records in certain cases to a need to produce these within 'a short timescale';
- greater focus on the requirements of the legislation; and
- a clearer distinction between legal requirements and recommended best practice.

The FSA believes that this new guidance will reduce the burden on industry by £15.6 million. Businesses will be free to go further than this minimum legal requirement – and many already do – but that is for businesses to decide.

### 3.3.4 Tackling the administrative burden of food labelling requirements

Labelling food is one of FSA biggest administrative burdens accounting for over 20 per cent of FSA total burden. Due to mandatory requirements being developed over years, in relation to new scientific risk and/or consumer desire, the requirement to label food with information appears in over 30 individual statutory instruments. FSA has developed a number of simplification initiatives (see below) based on the overall burden of labelling and specific requirements.

#### European Commission Review of Labelling

In February 2006 the EC published a Consultative Document on its intended review of food labelling. Following this, the Government consulted publicly before responding in July 2006<sup>13</sup>.

The review is now underway, and the EC has held a series of preparatory Experts' Group Meetings in Brussels to inform its thinking. The review will focus on simplification; primarily through consolidation of the horizontal pieces of legislation and the harmonisation of Member States national rules requiring industry to comply with just one piece of legislation when trading across the EU. This proposal, which is expected to be published by the end of 2007, will include nutrition labelling of food. FSA has been undertaking stakeholder workshops and consultations to ensure that the views of UK consumers and businesses are taken into account whilst the regulation is drafted.

<sup>13</sup> The consultation can be found at <http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2006/labellingeu> and the results can be found at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/consultationresponse/labelbetterregresp.pdf>

### Meat Products Regulations 2003

Last year's Simplification Plan reported on work being carried out to consider options for reducing the £11.2 million administrative burden of the Meat Products (England) Regulations 2003. The information obligations in these regulations require meat products that look like a cut, joint, slice, portion or carcass to be labelled correctly. They also require any added ingredient, including added water or ingredients from another animal species, to be mentioned in the name of the food.

The Agency is still committed to reducing the administrative burdens on industry from information obligations in these regulations, while at the same time protecting consumers. It had been hoped to issue a formal public consultation package in March 2007. However, initial soundings in December 2006 highlighted a number of significant and divergent stakeholder concerns. The process has therefore been rescheduled in order to allow time for further research, options analysis and consensus building. In this way we hope to deliver meaningful simplification that takes account of stakeholder concerns.

The revised schedule is for a public consultation on a range of options in spring 2008, with delivery of an administrative burden reduction by December 2009.

### Food (Lot Marking) Regulations

FSA are talking to stakeholders and the EC about the possibility and implications of removing or reducing the lot marking requirements. FSA will be exploring whether there is sufficient legislation in place already through other types of labelling to make this requirement unnecessary.

### 3.3.5 Feed Regulations

The EC Regulations setting the European standards on animal feed were introduced after the original ABME exercise. The FSA, using the same Standard Cost Model methodology, measured their administrative burden earlier this year. Feedback from policy officials and stakeholders on the initial results suggests that further measurement needs to be carried out to reach agreement on the burden of the regulations. The FSA realises the importance of obtaining a baseline measurement for the regulations that business can identify with. At present, FSA is arranging meetings with stakeholders to discuss whether the initial measurement needs further refinement and to identify potential areas for simplification and administrative burden reduction.

### 3.3.6 The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Regulations 2006 (TSE Regulations)

The administrative burdens measurement exercise calculated the costs of keeping records, labelling and applying for authorisation under the TSE Regulations as £300 000 annually. Next year, new regulations will be introduced that will remove some of these administrative requirements for butchers. The regulations, taking a more risk-based approach, will increase the age at which bovine vertebral column is classified as specified risk material (SRM) from 24 months to 30 months. The reclassification will therefore remove both the requirement for butchers to be authorised to remove vertebral column from carcasses 24-30 months at slaughter and labelling those carcasses which contain vertebral column that is SRM (until the vertebral column is removed). This will reduce the administrative burden for authorised butchers by £130,000 annually.

## 3.4 Future projects FSA will be considering for additional administrative burden reduction

In addition to the initiatives outlined above, over the next 12 months the FSA will also be talking to stakeholders and considering other areas for further administrative burden reductions. Areas that the Agency will be looking at include: administrative requirements in the approval regime under the Food Hygiene Regulations, various record keeping requirements in the Feed Hygiene Regulations and the requirement for food businesses to register with their local authority when they set up (application for the registration of a food business establishment).

## 3.5 FSA work in Europe to influence policy making and reduce administrative burdens

The FSA's work in the EU and international arena is important in achieving administrative burden reductions, as the vast majority of food legislation originates from the EU. It is therefore paramount that the FSA fully engages and negotiates in Europe on behalf of UK interests. By early and active involvement we can ensure that we prevent any unnecessary administrative burdens being written in European law without compromising the outcomes for public health protection and consumer confidence.

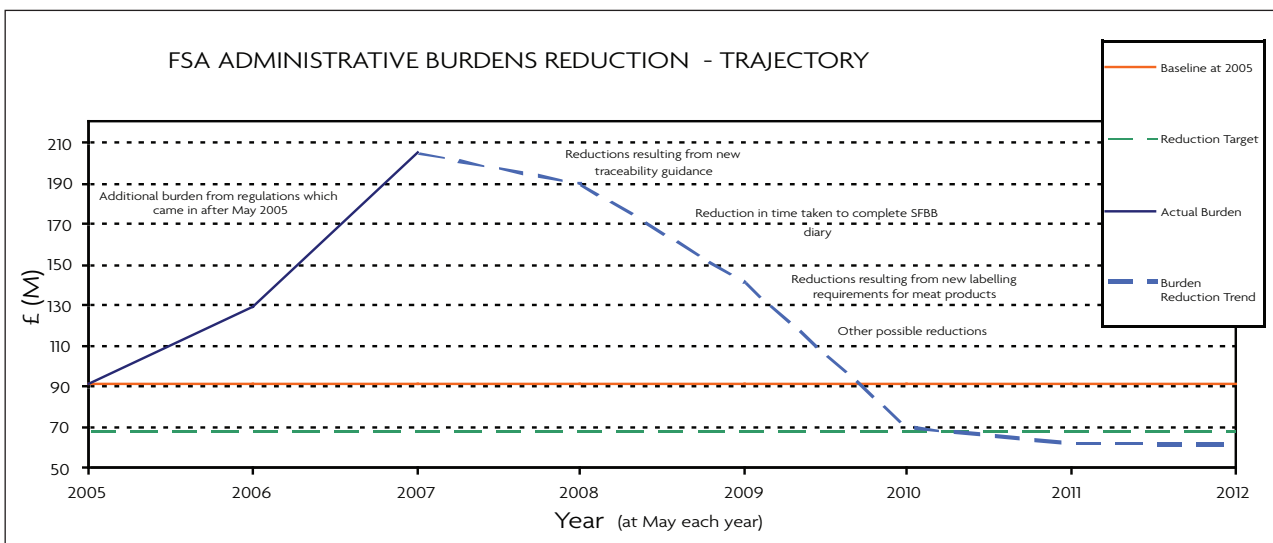
The FSA is keen to identify and share with the EC opportunities for administrative burden reductions within the current body of legislation, and also better identify administrative burdens created by new legislative proposals. Recent areas that we have been working on closely with our European counterparts, in addition to those mentioned earlier, include:

- Working with the EC on reducing the impact on small business operators (who predominately sell food to the final consumer) of HACCP. FSA is keen to ensure that there is no removal of consumer protection through any simplification in this area; and
- helping the EU develop sector specific guidance for feed producers to help them understand the legal requirements contained in the EC Regulations on Feed Hygiene.

### 3.6 Administrative burden reduction trajectory

Reducing the administrative burden of our regulations will take time. We need to consult with stakeholders on how best to change a particular administrative requirement, introduce new measures and allow time for them to be adopted. Businesses will therefore experience financial benefits over time. The trajectory below sets out the timescales over which we expect benefits to be delivered.

The reduction of administrative burdens is only one part of the FSA's simplification programme to realise benefits for the private sector. There are a number of other initiatives which have delivered, or will deliver, savings to business.



## 4 Simplification in the private sector

### 4.1 Exemptions for small slaughterhouses

The FSA is currently consulting on a number of initiatives to reduce burdens on small slaughterhouses, while maintaining consumer protection<sup>14</sup>.

EU food hygiene regulations require all slaughterhouses to meet the same standards as the legislation that applied before 1 January 2006, but there were some changes in the detailed requirements. The new regulations introduced a requirement for slaughterhouses to have refrigerated facilities for the holding of meat detained by the Official Veterinarian (OV) for further examination and to have livestock vehicle cleansing and disinfection facilities. The majority of previously compliant slaughterhouses should have little problem in being approved under these new rules. However, the Agency estimates that some 40 very small slaughterhouses in England, out of a total of 124, are not able to meet one or both of these new requirements.

The FSA believes that the cost of requiring very small slaughterhouse to meet these requirements is disproportionate and would not lead to greater consumer protection. We are therefore proposing national measures to derogate these slaughterhouses from both these requirements, with potential savings of up to £40,000 per year. The national measures are allowed under Articles in the EU Regulations and would be subject to the agreement of the EC and other Member States.

### 4.2 Veterinary supervision for game and game meat

Before January 2006, veterinary supervision was only required for game and game meat being produced for export. Local authorities controlled domestic game meat production under general food hygiene rules that required no official post-mortem inspection.

The new EU food hygiene legislation requires all game meat processors to operate to the same standards, irrespective of size, including the requirement that all game undergo official post-mortem inspection. This requirement brings approximately 60 game processors, which had previously been exempt, under OV control by 1 September 2007 with consequent costs on industry and Government.

A recent independent study<sup>15</sup> suggests that there would be little public health protection from official post-mortem inspection of game, apart from improved identification of bovine tuberculosis in deer. A requirement of the EU regulations is for hunters to be trained in basic post-mortem techniques.

<sup>14</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2007/hygieneenglandamend08](http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2007/hygieneenglandamend08)

<sup>15</sup> 'An evaluation of the effect of EU proposals to inspect licensed premises on the marketing of wild game: a qualitative risk assessment (M01025)' Summary by H L Coburn *et al* published in *The Veterinary Record* (2005) 157, 321-32

The FSA is considering the introduction of new legislation that will allow up to 30 game handling establishments to carry out post-mortem checks themselves, thereby mitigating some of the burdens of the new food hygiene legislation. Under this proposal these establishments would require all game to be examined by a trained person after shooting, have a maximum throughput of half a tonne of game meat a week and supply only the local market.

A pilot is expected to start in September 2008, in which certain small-scale game processors would be subject to veterinary audit but be permitted to carry out post-mortem checks themselves. About 30 game handling establishments are expected to be eligible. The pilot will evaluate the scope for potential cost savings.

### 4.3 Consolidation of bottled water legislation

The 1999 regulations on bottled water laid down requirements for the exploitation, bottling, labelling and sale of natural mineral water, spring water and bottled drinking water. Businesses and enforcement authorities raised concerns about the difficulties in interpreting the legislation which was made more difficult by subsequent amendments and the need to refer to the EU legislation.

Following extensive consultation with stakeholders, new legislation consolidating the existing UK legislation into one Statutory Instrument was introduced on 31 October 2007<sup>16</sup>. This new legislation, along with new guidance<sup>17</sup> for industry and enforcement authorities, have made the regulations easier to interpret and comply with. Bottled water producers estimate annual savings of £80,000 and consumers will benefit from increased confidence in the standards of bottled water. Retailers and enforcement authorities will also benefit from the increased compliance and simpler legislation.

The House of Lords have said they consider the consolidated legislation to be a good example of simplification.

The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (England) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/2785) consolidate a number of previous Regulations which laid down requirements for the exploitation, bottling, labelling and sale of natural mineral water, spring water and bottled drinking water. The legislation sets limits for certain chemical and microbiological parameters in the water. We note that UK trade associations and enforcement authorities had previously cited difficulties in interpreting the scattered requirements, and that issues were further complicated by the need to cross-refer to EC Directives. We commend the Food Standards Agency for bringing forward this instrument as part of its simplification plan and hope that other Departments will follow suit.

House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee, 31st report of the 2006-07 session, October 2007

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2007/20072785.htm>

<sup>17</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/waterguideeng07.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/waterguideeng07.pdf)

## 4.4 Food and farm assurance schemes

Assurance schemes are voluntary schemes which verify, through regular independent inspections, that businesses are meeting certain stated standards. The scope of these schemes is varied. Some are farm only while others cover up to, and include, processing and packing. Production standards are set by the assurance scheme and vary across different schemes, but generally cover food safety and traceability, animal welfare and environmental protection. Members of a particular scheme can use the scheme's logo on their produce, and/or use a specific claim, to advertise to consumers that the product has been produced to these standards.

These schemes benefit both business and consumers. Business may benefit through a reduced burden of inspection resulting from the formal recognition by enforcement authorities of the level of consumer protection that is delivered through independently-audited schemes. For example, the enforcement procedures developed by the FSA and local authorities for primary producers provide for farmers that are members of a recognised farm assurance scheme to be subject to a lower frequency of food hygiene inspections (see Table A, item 8). Under these procedures around 60,000 farms will benefit from fewer inspections. Only 2 per cent of those farms who are members of recognised schemes will be inspected, compared with 25 per cent of non-members, saving farms an estimated £300,000 per annum. Consumers will also benefit, when they have clear information, by the knowledge that the food meets the production standards of that scheme.



A recent survey by the Trading Standards Institute on the Animal Welfare Act 2007 reinforced the importance of the memorandum of understanding between the LACORS (Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services) and the Assured Food Standards (AFS) in underpinning a modern approach to the enforcement of this legislation.

The AFS is the independent organisation set up to manage the 'Red Tractor' mark. AFS represents the interests from each of the key players in the food industry, including the National Farmers' Union, the Ulster Farmers' Union, the Meat & Livestock Commission, Dairy UK and the British Retail Consortium. AFS sets the assurance standards that apply to various commodity sectors and to different links in the food chain. It manages the independent certification bodies that police the standards. At the point of packaging, AFS defines the usage conditions for the 'Red Tractor' logo, licenses the processors and packers who display it on their packs and ensures that the logo is seen only on food that is 'truly allowed' to carry it.

100% of trading standards authorities believe that a recent memorandum of understanding between LACORS and the Assured Food Standards (AFS) – the 'Red Tractor' quality assurance scheme – is a positive step towards a modern approach to enforcing the legislation

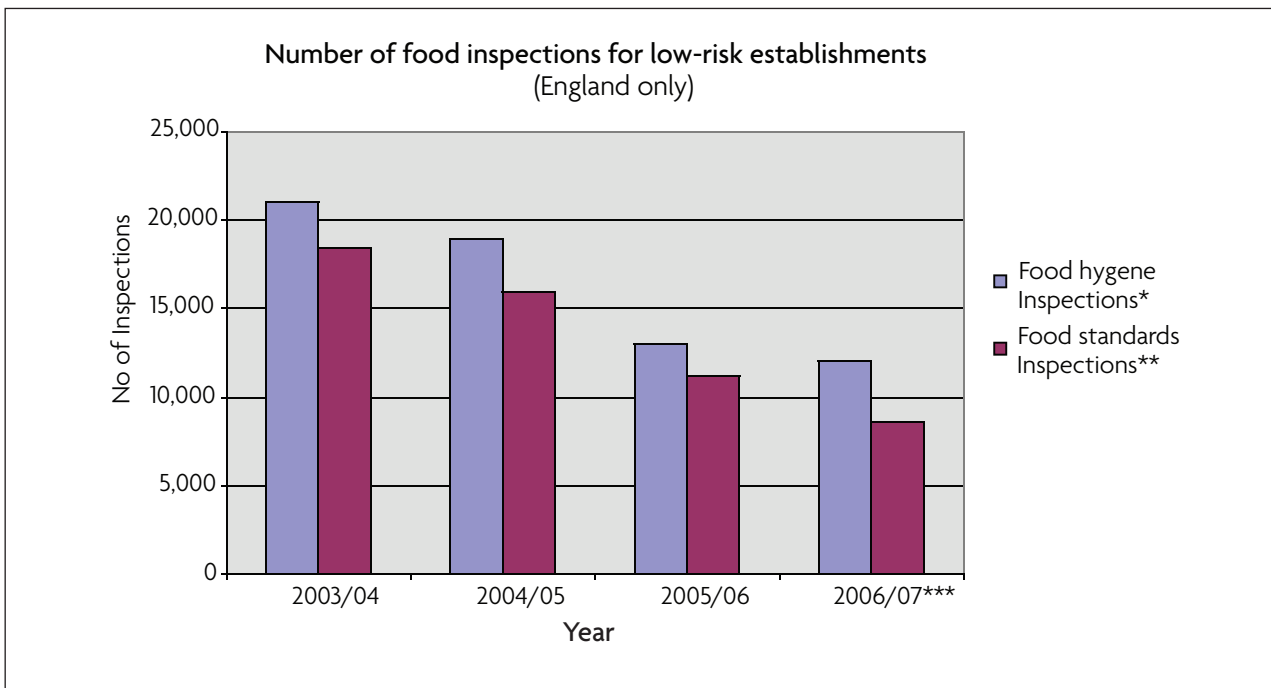
*(Source: Trading Standards Institute press notice 27 June 2007<sup>18</sup>)*

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.tsi.org.uk/media/index.htm?frmClient=2A22665E-1185-6B25-FC1400FD0F8C9F09&frmItemID=210274&frmShared=1>

The FSA aims, over time, to increase the scope for effective enforcement to be delivered by means other than physical inspection for food businesses that have good systems and a demonstrably good record, for example through formal recognition of the level of consumer protection that is delivered through independently-audited industry standards and quality assurance schemes. This would provide an opportunity for local authorities to direct resources to food enforcement in those businesses with high and poorly controlled risks, and to provide advice and education services for SMEs to aid their compliance with food law.

### 4.5 Reducing inspections

The frequency of inspection of food businesses is based upon different risk ratings. In last year's Plan we reported on the reduced number of inspections following the introduction of the alternative enforcement strategies (AES) for the lowest risk rated businesses. This showed a considerable reduction in the number of inspections between 2003 and 2005. Data for 2006/07 is currently being collected from local authorities. However early indications, based on an incomplete data set, show that the year on year reduction in the number of inspections continue into 2006/07.



\* Number of planned inspections achieved for E and F rated premises (those premises for which Alternative Enforcement Strategy may be used)

\*\* Number of planned inspections achieved for C rated premises (those premises for which Alternative Enforcement Strategy may be used)

\*\*\* 2006/07 figures are based on an incomplete dataset and may be subject to revision when the final data are published

## 5 Savings to the public sector

This section describes the work the FSA has done on reducing the burden for the wider public sector, primarily the enforcement community.

### 5.1 Incorporating the work of the Wine Standards Board into the Food Standards Agency

Last year's Simplification Plan reported that the Wine Standards Board (WSB) merged with the FSA on 1 July 2006. This was one of the first mergers to be implemented following the recommendations in Sir Philip Hampton's report 'Reducing Administrative Burdens: effective inspection and enforcement', published in March 2005<sup>19</sup>.

The WSB was a small Non-Departmental Public Body funded by Defra and the Vintners' Company and was responsible for wine regulation enforcement. The Hampton Report identified that there were overlapping areas of responsibility between the FSA and the WSB that caused confusion across the wine sector. The Hampton report identified synergies including ease of access to FSA experts in areas such as food labelling and allergens, and greater potential for improved co-operation with other enforcement bodies.

Transfer to the FSA has achieved economies of scale. The staffing of the WSB was reduced by two, as the same level of dedicated office support was no longer required; WSB office-based staff were also accommodated within the FSA's existing headquarters building. Benefits include improved access to legal advice and to FSA technical experts in wine related matters, as well as increased interaction with Trading Standards. It is estimated that the merger has saved the public sector some £110,000 per year. Some of these savings may be off-set by the costs of setting up and running a new appeals procedure, but these are expected to be minimal.

Following the merger, the draft Wine Standards Enforcement Policy was issued for public comment in June 2007<sup>20</sup>. This marks the start of a change process that will make the service more effective and responsive to its stakeholders.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/7/F/bud0Shamptonv1.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2007/winestandards>

## 5.2 Food law enforcement by local authorities

Most food law enforcement is carried out by local authorities (LAs). They play a vital role in raising the standard of food safety. They do this by providing guidance and support to business. They also do this through consistent and proportionate, but effective, enforcement. There are a number of initiatives in place to improve the way the FSA works with LAs, and reduce the burden of enforcement activities both on the LAs themselves and businesses, in line with the Hampton recommendations.

The FSA puts consumers first. Enforcement of food law protects the health of consumers. The FSA has a statutory duty to initiate national policies for the enforcement of food law by local food authorities, and to monitor that enforcement.

The “New Vision” for food law enforcement by LAs was approved by the FSA Board in October 2006<sup>21</sup>. This will provide a more flexible approach to food law enforcement which will enable LAs to focus their resources more effectively at the areas of greatest need based on local knowledge. The overarching objective remains to protect consumers, but the primary focus of the new vision is on raising levels of business compliance with food law. The FSA is working closely with LA representatives to deliver this.

### Changes to Local Authority Enforcement project (CLAE)

This more flexible regime is being pursued through four linked reviews, co-ordinated under the CLAE project. These are:

- a) **review of enforcement policy** (see Table B, item 1): to introduce a wider range of interventions to replace the previous inspection-focused policy. This will enable LAs to choose the nature and the depth of intervention according to the circumstances of the individual food business. It will allow LAs to make the best use of current resources by focusing them on areas of greatest need, so helping to protect consumers by addressing those businesses where problems may occur. This better use of resources should lead to improved consumer protection. The review of the enforcement policy will lead to a revision of the statutory Code of Practice. Public consultation on the proposals started in England in September and is due to end 10 December 2007,<sup>22</sup> with the aim of putting final proposals to Ministers for approval in January 2008. Similar consultations have already started in Northern Ireland<sup>23</sup> and Wales<sup>24</sup> and will take place in Scotland.

<sup>21</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/pro061002a.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/pro061002a.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2007/foodlawcopengreview07](http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2007/foodlawcopengreview07)

<sup>23</sup> [www.foodstandards.gov.uk/consultations/consultni/2007/copreviewni2007](http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk/consultations/consultni/2007/copreviewni2007)

<sup>24</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consultwales/2007/copwalesreview07](http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consultwales/2007/copwalesreview07)

We also intend to reduce the amount of information the establishments are required to be provided when registering a new food business establishment and new model forms have been proposed. We estimate that this will reduce the total administrative burden for new businesses by over £400,000 per annum. A comparison of the current form and the proposed form can be seen shown below:

Comparison of the current and revised model form for registering a food business establishment

Current Model Form	Simplified Model Form						
<p><b>CURRENT FORM FOR APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF A FOOD BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT</b> (Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs, Article 6(2))</p> <p>This form should be completed by food business operators in respect of new food business establishments and submitted to the relevant food authority 28 days before commencing food operations. On the basis of the activities carried out, certain food business establishments are required to be approved rather than registered. If you are unsure whether any aspect of your food operations would require your establishment to be approved, please contact the Food Authority for guidance.</p> <p>1. Address of establishment (or address at which moveable establishment is kept) _____ Post code _____</p> <p>2. Name of food business (Trading name) _____ Telephone no. _____</p> <p>3. Full Name of food business operator _____</p> <p>4. Address of food business operator _____ Post code _____</p> <p>Telephone no. _____ E-mail _____</p> <p>5. Type of food business (Please tick ALL the boxes that apply):</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                 Farm Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Staff restaurant/canteen/refreshment <input type="checkbox"/>                  Food manufacturing/processing <input type="checkbox"/> Catering <input type="checkbox"/>                  Packer <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital/residential home/school <input type="checkbox"/>                  Importer <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/pub/guest house <input type="checkbox"/>                  Wholesale/cash and carry <input type="checkbox"/> Private house used for a food business <input type="checkbox"/>                  Distribution/warehousing <input type="checkbox"/> Moveable establishment e.g. ice cream van <input type="checkbox"/>                  Retailer <input type="checkbox"/> Market stall <input type="checkbox"/>                  Restaurant/cafe/snack bar <input type="checkbox"/> Food Broker <input type="checkbox"/>                  Market <input type="checkbox"/> Takeaway <input type="checkbox"/>                  Seasonal slaughterer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please give details): _____             </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                 6. Type of business: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Trader <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Company <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please give details) <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                 (If Limited Company, please complete 7 below)             </td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> </table> <p>7. Limited company name _____ Company no. _____</p> <p>Registered Office address: _____ Post code _____</p> <p>8. Number of vehicles or stalls kept at, or used from, the food business establishment and used for the purposes of preparing, selling or transporting food:      5 or less <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51 plus <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>9. Water supplied to the food business establishment: Public (main) supply <input type="checkbox"/> Private supply <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>10. Full name of manager (if different from operator) _____</p> <p>11. If this is a new business _____ 12. If this is a seasonal business, _____      Date you intend to open _____ Period during which you intend to be open each year _____</p> <p>13. Number of people engaged in food business: 0-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51 plus <input type="checkbox"/> (Please tick one box)  <small>(Count part-time worker(s) (25 hrs per week or less) as one-half)</small></p> <p>Signature of food business operator: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Name: _____  <small>(BLOCK CAPITALS)</small></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>AFTER THIS FORM HAS BEEN SUBMITTED, FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS MUST NOTIFY ANY CHANGES TO THE ACTIVITIES STATED ABOVE TO THE FOOD</b></p> </div>	Farm Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Staff restaurant/canteen/refreshment <input type="checkbox"/> Food manufacturing/processing <input type="checkbox"/> Catering <input type="checkbox"/> Packer <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital/residential home/school <input type="checkbox"/> Importer <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/pub/guest house <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale/cash and carry <input type="checkbox"/> Private house used for a food business <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution/warehousing <input type="checkbox"/> Moveable establishment e.g. ice cream van <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer <input type="checkbox"/> Market stall <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant/cafe/snack bar <input type="checkbox"/> Food Broker <input type="checkbox"/> Market <input type="checkbox"/> Takeaway <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal slaughterer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please give details): _____	6. 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On the basis of the activities carried out, certain food business establishments are required to be approved rather than registered. If you are unsure whether any aspect of your food operations would require your establishment to be approved, please contact the Food Authority for guidance.</p> <p>1. Address of establishment (or address at which moveable establishment is kept) _____ Post code _____</p> <p>2. Name of food business (Trading name) _____ Telephone no. _____</p> <p>3. Full Name of food business operator _____</p> <p>4. Address of food business operator _____ Post code _____</p> <p>Telephone no. _____ E-mail _____</p> <p>5. 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If this is a new business _____      Date you intend to open _____</p> <p>Signature of food business operator: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Name: _____  <small>(BLOCK CAPITALS)</small></p>	Farm Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Packer <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> manufacturing/processing <input type="checkbox"/> Importer <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale/cash and carry <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution/warehousing <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant/cafe/snack bar <input type="checkbox"/> Market <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Slaughterer <input type="checkbox"/>	Staff restaurant/canteen/kitchen <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital residential home/school <input type="checkbox"/> Catering <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/pub/guest house <input type="checkbox"/> Private house used for a food business <input type="checkbox"/> Moveable establishment e.g. ice cream van <input type="checkbox"/> Market stall <input type="checkbox"/> Food Broker <input type="checkbox"/> Takeaway Other (please give details): _____
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The reviews of enforcement policy should be completed by early 2008, so it can be implemented from the target date of 1 April 2008 in England. Implementation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will follow during 2008/09. Training and familiarisation with the new policy will be delivered to local authorities in the first quarter of 2008.

- b) **review of the monitoring system for food law enforcement** (see Table B, item 2): introduction of a simpler system of data returns to help LAs provide more accurate data and save costs. The review of the monitoring system was part of the Agency's first Simplification Plan. A public consultation was completed during 2006, and the outcomes have been notified to all LAs. The detailed data requirement was published on 28 February 2007. A further revision to the data requirement was published on 2 November 2007. Following introduction in April 2008, the first results of the new monitoring system will be seen in the data for 2008/09.

Administrative savings are estimated at up to £56,000 in year 1, and up to £29,000 per year thereafter. There will be one-off initial increased costs of approximately £343,000 for LAs in setting up and in training for the new system. Automated data transfer will remove the need for LAs to complete a return manually. Furthermore, collecting detailed data for each food premises will mean that any future change to the analysis of data should not require changes to LA systems.

The review of the monitoring system should be completed by early 2008, so it can be implemented from the target date of 1 April 2008. Training on familiarisation with the new system will be delivered to LAs in the first quarter of 2008, and a second phase of more detailed training in the first quarter of 2009.

- c) **review of audit arrangements**: new EU obligations require each enforcement body to be audited every five years. The FSA is consulting on these requirements. The FSA proposals will minimise the burden these rules will impose by making them consistent with the Hampton principles and with the new vision and framework agreement. The proposals include more focused auditing and self auditing through peer review. The proposals will allow LAs to use their resources more effectively. The review should be completed by April 2008.
- d) **review of the Framework Agreement** between the LAs and the FSA, which sets out the structure within which enforcement policy, monitoring and audit are delivered. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the agreement takes into account the results of the initiatives described above and to bring the agreement up to date in line with Hampton principles to help LAs to focus their resources. The review should be completed by December 2008.

### 5.3 Local Better Regulation Office

The Government set up the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) in May 2007. The aims of the organisation are to:

- ensure that risk-based business inspection and enforcement mean a lighter touch for compliant businesses and targeting of local authority regulatory activity in areas that need it most; and
- deliver greater consistency for all businesses and particularly those operating across local authority boundaries.

The FSA welcomes these broad aims of LBRO. We have been working closely with LBRO since its creation to make sure it can achieve its aims. The FSA and LBRO propose to have a Memorandum of Understanding to agree areas of responsibility and ways of working together. When agreed this will be published on both our websites.

### 5.4 Public Sector Strategy

The Public Sector Strategy, which the Government announced in June 2007, takes a comprehensive look at the burdens that central Government imposes on front line staff. For the FSA this means enforcement officers in local authorities. The aim is to reduce paperwork requirements without compromising on public health protection. The majority of the FSA's information requests are routed through our Enforcement Portal. This is the main route by which we communicate with local authorities.

“Clearly it is good that the FSA are asking these questions and we (LAs) need to provide feedback.”

LACORS

The FSA has consulted with local authorities through LACORS<sup>25</sup> on ways of reducing information requests and we are currently collating the results. We will be drawing up an action plan identifying changes we can make to our current processes to improve our systems with the aim of reducing the overall number of requests.

Also, we will be taking forward the recommendations of the independent Sudan 1 Review Panel<sup>26</sup> on improving the communications between LAs and the FSA.

<sup>25</sup> LACORS: Local Authorities Coordinating Office of Regulatory Services

<sup>26</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa070906.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/fsa070906.pdf)

## 6 Not imposing unnecessary burdens on the third sector

The third sector – which includes charities, voluntary and community organisations – is important as it often plays a vital role in the local community. Many third sector organisations raise money, at fêtes and other public fund raising events, by selling home produced foods. This means they can be affected by food legislation.

Current EU legislation allows for some flexibility over the labelling of food sold loose and pre-packed for direct sale but does not single out the third sector. UK Food Labelling Regulations 1996, as amended, provide an exemption from most of the general labelling requirements for food prepared by charities and for public fund-raising events, such as school and church fêtes. The FSA believes that this is a proportionate approach and welcomed by both organisations and consumers.

There is a danger that these exemptions could be lost through the EU food labelling review. This would have a significant impact on the third sector. The cost to individual schools could be anything between £150 and £1,000 per year depending on the volume of food sales at fund raising events.

The FSA will be negotiating in the forthcoming EU food labelling review (see Chapter 8) to adopt the provision providing this flexibility or a similar one at EU level. This approach has been welcomed by our third sector stakeholders. We hope to be able to report good news in the future. To strengthen the UK's negotiating position the FSA has collected the views of stakeholders<sup>27</sup> on this provision along with their views on the EU food labelling review. Respondents were in favour of the Agency's recommendation to negotiate for the provision to be adopted at EU-level, as they considered that it would be inappropriate and disproportionate to require these products to be subject to labelling legislation.

<sup>27</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2007/](http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2007/)

## 7 FSA simplification projects

### 7.1 Sector specific review

Last year's Simplification Plan included a commitment to build on the success of the FSA's 2002 sector specific initiative carried out with specialist cheesemakers with an in-depth study of another sector. The specialist cheesemakers<sup>28</sup> initiative developed practical assistance for businesses in that sector to help them analyse hazards and manage food safety.

The starting point of the current review was to assess which other sector would benefit from similar assistance. The work involved talking to trade associations and businesses in various sectors to uncover those food regulations which cause them the most problems and which are most resource intensive.

As a result of these discussions the project has focused on small-scale butchery and craft bakery businesses principally involved in the local retail trade, including manufacture for local distribution.

Two areas of particular irritation have been identified:

**Hygiene approvals** - this issue relates to the approval of certain food premises that handle products of animal origin and also certain aspects of the microbiological testing requirements for raw meat and raw meat products in small scale approved premises. Craft bakery and butchery trade bodies said that additional detailed guidance for both businesses and enforcers would be useful. Guidance that sets out the requirements for approved premises and in particular how to deal with the practical interpretation of the legislation, as applied to smaller scale establishments.

**Labelling** - this issue concerned the accessibility of guidance and legislation relating to labelling. Small businesses said that they would find it useful to have targeted guidance that covered only what they needed to know to label loose products relevant to their business processes.

A major challenge to growing businesses is the transition from sale of loose to pre-packed food, since at this point the step change in regulatory requirements is considerable. In such cases, businesses require easy access to comprehensive, up-to-date and integrated information that is, as far as possible, confined to the requirements applying to each particular business.

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/webpage/specialistcheese>

## The FSA's response

The issues raised are essentially around communication of regulatory requirements. Improvements in communication should make it easier for businesses to understand the statutory requirements that apply to their business and, wherever necessary, provide guidance to ensure consistency of interpretation. In order to take these issues forward the FSA will:

1. initiate a thorough review of all aspects of the requirements for approval and the criteria for exemptions provided in the EC hygiene regulations. The aim of this review will be to produce detailed guidance for use by both industry and enforcers focussed on how these regulations, and related microbiological sampling requirements, should be applied in small-scale operations.
2. Undertake a review of all previous work to provide a route map to food regulation and a source of integrated advice on food law to small businesses. The review will provide an assessment of requirements of both businesses and enforcers and of appropriate channels for communication. This assessment will generate options for providing easy access to guidance and legislation on a sustainable basis.
3. Initiate a review of the FSA's effectiveness in providing advice to businesses. The review will examine how well and how consistently the Agency satisfies business enquiries and how it monitors its performance in responding to such enquiries.

The full report of the review is published alongside this Plan<sup>29</sup>. A report on progress on all these issues will be included in next year's Plan

## 7.2 Review of FSA Guidance

One of the major business irritants identified during the administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out in 2005-06 was the issue of the potential costs and burdens introduced by FSA guidance and the possible effect on businesses who wish to trade within and outside of the UK.

As a result of these concerns, as announced in last year's Plan, we have carried out a major review of FSA guidance for business.

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/betregs>

Given the volume of FSA guidance similar types of guidance were grouped and the review was carried out on 20 typical sets of guidance:

Guide to Food Hygiene and Other Regulations for the UK Meat Industry — Chapter 11 on meat cutting and Chapter 12 on meat processing

Code of Practice on prevention and reduction of fusarium mycotoxins

Crop guides on pesticide residue minimisation — the guide on apples

Food Supplements Regulations 2003: Guidance notes

Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars Regulations 2003: Guidance Notes

Imported Food Information Sheets — the sheet on import of fruit and vegetables from third countries

Best Practice Guidance on Managing Food Allergens with Particular reference to Avoiding Cross-Contamination and Using Appropriate Advisory Labelling

Guidance on approval or registration under the Feed Hygiene Regulation

Guidelines for the development of national voluntary guides to good hygiene practice

Healthy Drinks Vending

Jams and Similar Products Regulations 2003: Guidance Notes

Meat Products Regulations 2003 – Summary Guidance Notes for Butchers

Producers Guide to EU Wine Regulations

Safer food, better business for caterers

Summary guidance on new food hygiene regulations for businesses (other than restaurants, caterers and businesses selling food only to the final consumer) making or handling foods of animal origin

Target Nutrient Specifications for Manufactured Products Used in School Meals

Contaminants in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

The Ceramic Articles in Contact with Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

Guidance for Local Authorities on Managing Shellfish Biotxin Events

Guidance on the use of the terms 'vegetarian' and 'vegan' in food labelling

An initial analysis of the readability of the guidance was followed by telephone interviews with key industry and enforcement stakeholders.

The interview questions focused on the following areas:

- Communication of the guidance;
- Ease of understanding;
- Burden on stakeholders (e.g. business and enforcement bodies);
- Benefits to stakeholders (e.g. business and enforcement bodies);
- Impact on the businesses' trade either in the UK or abroad;
- Evaluation of the guidance; and
- Suggestions for the model guidance.

## High-level findings

### Communication and accessibility of the guidance

The study found that the FSA communicates its guidance to business stakeholders using a wide range of methods. These include e-mail, through trade associations and/or working groups/advisory panels, through local authority officers, conferences, websites, press releases, radio, leaflets, information packs and letters.

The majority of enforcement and business stakeholder interviewees said that they found the guidance either 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain.

The majority of enforcement and business stakeholder interviewees first obtained the guidance via the Internet (but printed it out to read) or read a hard copy of the guidance. This confirms that we need to make sure that guidance can be printed and/or obtained in a hard copy format.

A reasonable number of both enforcement and business stakeholder interviewees felt that the guidance did duplicate material published elsewhere. This is an issue we will need to investigate further.

### **Ease of understanding**

When asked, those FSA officials to whom the review team spoke estimated that the guidance for which they were responsible would typically take, on first reading, between one and four hours to read and understand. However, when the review team spoke to enforcement and business stakeholder contacts many said it actually took between just one and two hours. This is encouraging, though there is always scope to reduce this time by making guidance as easy as possible to understand.

Not surprisingly, as authors, FSA policy officials generally felt their guidance would be 'easy' to read and understand. This view was borne out in the interviews with stakeholders. The majority felt that FSA guidance was either 'easy' or 'very easy' to understand.

FSA policy officials did admit that areas which could prove challenging included the legal and technical aspects of regulations explained through guidance.

Many of the enforcement stakeholders spoken to felt that it was 'easy' to understand the legal status of FSA guidance. Fewer business stakeholder contacts agreed. Many were neutral about this issue or felt that it was difficult to understand or be sure of the legal status. We will need to think more about this issue.

### **Burden on stakeholders**

A positive finding from the study was that the majority of business stakeholders said that FSA guidance did not impose an additional cost burden on their business. They typically said that any cost burdens were associated with complying with the actual regulations, and that this was not related to using FSA guidance. The FSA is tackling the issue of compliance with regulations through our administrative burden reduction project (see Section 3).

### **Benefits to stakeholders**

The review found that the benefits of the guidance included:

- providing a centralised source of information and advice;
- clarification of duties and/or requirements; and
- providing a consistent approach for them to follow.

The majority of enforcement stakeholders said that if the guidance did not exist their jobs would be a lot more difficult.

### Impact on businesses trade either in the UK or abroad

In relation to the impact the guidance may have on business stakeholders' trade across the UK, when asked FSA policy officials envisaged a number of possible benefits. These include increased compliance, improved understanding, raised awareness, commercial benefits, benefits to the consumers and health benefits.

When business stakeholders were asked the same question, there was a mixed response. Some felt there had been no impact whilst others agreed the guidance had had a positive impact. This is encouraging. Of those that felt there had been a positive impact, they said that FSA guidance provided helpful information/advice, provoked discussion and provided clarification of their duties/requirements.

In relation to the impact the guidance may have on businesses' trade abroad, some FSA policy officials could foresee a number of possible impacts including: affecting standard of imports to UK (foreign exports), an increase in export price, and other positive impacts if a stakeholder was a multi-national company. Others said they foresaw no impact. However, when business stakeholders were asked the same question, the majority felt that the guidance had not had any impact on their business abroad. Again this is encouraging.

### Evaluation of the guidance

All those spoken to during the course of the review were asked about the strengths of FSA guidance. The table below summarises their responses.

Table 5 – Strengths of FSA guidance – stakeholder views

FSA policy officials	Enforcement	Business
Practical, straightforward, logical	Layout, easy to follow and understand	Clarity and/or clarification of legislation
Help to raise standards and awareness	Clearly highlighted the key issues	Demonstration of best practice
Consolidated information	Written in plain English	Ability to highlight potential issues
Simplified regulations	Use of industry terminology	
Provided flowcharts/diagrams	Provision of contact details	Provision of contact details
Contained real examples		
Targeted		

This provides a helpful guide to what stakeholders look for in FSA guidance.

## Conclusions and next steps

The overall results of this study are encouraging. The majority of enforcement and business stakeholder interviewees felt FSA guidance was easily accessible and easy to understand. While there were some concerns among business stakeholders about the legal status of some guidance the majority did not feel that FSA guidance imposed additional costs on their business. The review has provided us with very useful information on the strengths and weaknesses of our guidance.

To help build on the strengths of our guidance and eliminate the weaknesses, we have published guidelines for FSA staff to follow when they write guidance. The guidelines are split into two elements:

- **Issues to consider** – these give officials an overview of the key issues to consider when preparing guidance for a range of purposes.
- **Guidance content** – giving information on what contents should be provided in guidance and how those contents should be structured.

A full report of the review including the guidelines is published alongside this Plan<sup>30</sup>. We shall feed back to appropriate policy officials the findings about each of the pieces of guidance analysed, to ensure that they address any identified weaknesses. We shall hold seminars to promote use of the guidelines and set up a central repository of all FSA guidance, to help evaluate the guidelines and the review itself.

## 7.3 Review of FSA forms

The FSA and relevant enforcement authorities ask business to complete forms for a range of different purposes. For example new food businesses are asked to complete a registration form which is sent to the local authority; a food business wishing to market a medical food is required to notify the FSA by completing a form.

As part of our commitment to reduce administrative burdens on business, we announced a project in last year's Plan to review FSA forms in line with the recommendations made in Philip Hampton's report<sup>31</sup>. The project has been looking at FSA forms to make sure they:

- use simple standardised designs which are easy to use;
- use plain language; and
- only collect the information they need.

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/betregs>

<sup>31</sup> [www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/7/F/bud05hamptonv1.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/7/F/bud05hamptonv1.pdf)

This project is also helping the FSA understand better how our forms affect food businesses. The aim is to ensure that current and future forms meet best practice and do not impose any unnecessary burdens, while still ensuring that information collected is sufficient for the intended purpose.

During the course of the project we have identified over 100 forms owned by the FSA. However, the vast majority of these forms are for enforcement authorities' use. Only 16 forms are a mandatory requirement for businesses to complete (i.e. businesses are legally required to provide the information or are legally required to provide the information on the stated form). There are another 8 forms that businesses may choose to complete, for example the consultation feedback and openness review forms. All 24 forms for business are listed in Table G.

The review is ongoing but we have already identified and taken steps to reduce some unnecessary burdens to business. Examples of progress are detailed below:

#### Application for the Registration of a New Food Business Establishment

As outlined in Chapter 5 the review of enforcement policy has provided an opportunity to review this form with the possibility of significantly reducing the information obligations by more than half. The proposed simplified version of the form is currently being consulted on as part of the 'Review of the Food Law Code of Practice' consultation. The 'Application for Approval' form is also being consulted on during the consultation exercise.

#### Notification of Medical Foods Form

Consultation with stakeholders showed that the FSA's Medical Foods Notification Form was difficult to locate on the FSA website, even using the search facility, and was time consuming to complete as the form could not be completed electronically. To address these issues we are creating a specific section for the Notification of Medical Foods form on the FSA Website and have developed a revised version of the forms in a format that will enable it to be completed electronically. Although stakeholders who use the Notification of Foods for Particular Nutritional Uses (Parnuts) form did not raise similar issues with regard to the form we have applied the same simplification measures to this form.

### On-line Incident Report Form

Food businesses are required to notify the FSA of any food that is not in compliance with food safety requirements. The on-line Incident Report Form used by food businesses for this purpose was identified as an area requiring significant improvement. The FSA has therefore invested significant resources into developing a revised Incident Notification Form. The revised form allows data to be submitted in spreadsheets, documents and images. This has greatly improved the handling and collation of information, particularly where consolidated products lists are required.

In addition external users are able to save and print any data they submit (regarding new incidents or additional products affected) and will be provided in each instance with an automatic receipt and an individual reference number. An optional, secure login feature is also available to external users. Further information about the new on-line incident report form, including a link to the form, was published on the FSA website <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2007/aug/foodfeedform> on 29 August 2007.

As reported in last year's Plan the Wine Standards Board moved from Defra to the FSA in July 2006 (see Chapter 5 and Table A, item 5). The FSA inherited a number of forms that the wine industry are asked to complete and these are currently being reviewed and updated to reflect the changes resulting from the merger. Progress is ongoing in this area and we will report the outcome in next year's plan.

Two of the key deliverables of the Forms Review project, identified from the outset as best practice and areas that the FSA could improve upon, were to produce comprehensive staff guidance in line with Hampton's recommendations as well as ensuring systems were in place to embed the guidance and monitor performance. Draft guidance has been produced and is currently being revised and evaluated by an internal panel set up to take forward the review. The panel has also agreed to establish an FSA forms gatekeeper role to monitor and control all external FSA forms. Guidance on forms and the forms gatekeeper are planned to be in place by the start of 2008.

A report on progress will be included in next year's Plan.

## 8 The wider better regulation agenda

### 8.1 Reducing burdens of EU legislation

Over 90% of our food law is derived from the EU. It is therefore essential that we work closely with the EC and other Member States on reducing the burdens that arise from the stock of current EU regulations and the flow of new ones. The FSA will identify and alert the EC to opportunities for simplification and administrative burden reduction within the current body of European legislation, and also highlight any new burdens created by new legislative proposals.

The FSA welcomes the EC's own drive to reduce the administrative burden of its regulations by 25 per cent. The FSA is working with the EC to achieve this target as delivery will benefit UK food businesses, enforcement officers and ultimately consumers.

#### 8.1.1 EU Review of food labelling legislation

As identified in last year's Plan, the EC is engaged in a review of current EU food labelling rules. The Commission is reviewing nutrition labelling in parallel. These will be brought together in a single proposal for a new directly applicable regulation, the publication of which is expected by the end of 2007. Throughout this work the FSA has been working with colleagues in other Member States and the EC to reduce the regulatory burden of food labelling while maintaining consumer protection.

Current EU food labelling rules have evolved over many years. They are complex and are governed by many different pieces of legislation. A major aim of this review is to simplify the rules, primarily by consolidation of the horizontal pieces of legislation, introducing a uniform compliance date and longer transition periods. Together these will reduce burdens on industry without loss of consumer information or protection. The FSA will press for the new rules to be evidence based.

As part of its preparation for the review, the FSA has developed a set of principles against which current and future food labelling requirements for pre-packed food could be measured. The aim is to ensure balance and proportionality in current and future food labelling legislation. These principles were agreed by the FSA Board at its open meeting on 15 February 2007 and have been the subject of consultation<sup>32</sup>. Respondents were broadly in favour of a principles-based approach. Some noted that the principles identified were effectively already enshrined in the current framework food labelling legislation, Directive 2000/13/EC, but appreciated the benefits of the approach. Some Trade Associations said that the principles must be implemented in such a way as to avoid over prescription and to allow for flexibility as new issues and technical developments arise. The EC has also indicated it is interested in this approach, some aspect of which is likely to feature in the new regulation.

<sup>32</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2007/loosefoodlabelling](http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2007/loosefoodlabelling)

All the responses to the consultation will be published on the FSA website. These responses will be taken into account in during negotiations.

### 8.1.2 Consolidation of food additives legislation

Food additives legislation is extremely complex. There are three European Parliament and Council Directives on “miscellaneous” additives, colours and sweeteners. All three Directives set out in their annexes positive lists of approved additives, and in most cases specify the foods in which they can be used and the maximum level of use.

These annexes have to be amended every time a change is made including change to the conditions of the additive’s use. The miscellaneous additives list for example has been amended six times since the regulation was introduced in 1995. Each time a list is amended there is a lengthy decision procedure, involving agreement by the Council and European Parliament before the legislation is finalised.

The FSA is pressing the EC to consolidate the existing legislation into just one regulation. The key changes will be:

- The existing EU harmonised legislation will be simplified;
- Decisions on new additives will be made faster; and
- The annexes of permitted additives will be re-structured so it is easier to see which are permitted in any given category of food.

The FSA estimates that if these proposals are adopted annual savings of around £1 million for business and £100,000 for local authorities could be realised. The timetable for this is still in discussion between the European Parliament and EC. (See Table B, item 5)

## 8.2 Allergen advisory labelling guidance

In last year’s Plan we said that two pieces of best practice guidance on food allergen information were in preparation. These were Guidance on allergen management and consumer information,<sup>33</sup> which has been published, and Best Practice Guidance on the Provision of Allergen Information for food that is not pre-packed, which will be published in early 2008. (See Table B and items 3 and 4)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/maycontainguide.pdf>

### 8.2.1 Guidance on allergen management and consumer information,

This provides, for the first time, a consistent and authoritative single guidance document for industry and enforcement bodies. Previously various industry bodies were using their own guidance, which was not consistent in terms of the advice given and aspects covered. The Food and Drink Federation (FDF) and British Retail Consortium (BRC) asked the Agency to co-ordinate the production of a consistent, centralised guidance document. This was achieved in partnership with the relevant stakeholders including the FDF, BRC, LACORS and consumer support groups. As well as the main guidance document, a simplified leaflet was produced to help smaller businesses. These were published by the Agency and publicised through trade and industry bodies to their members and through training provided by the Agency for local authority enforcement officers. The guidance benefits enforcement bodies by providing clear guidance to use when discussing allergen management with food businesses, resulting in a more consistent approach to allergen management and benefiting consumers with clearer, more consistent labelling that helps them make safe food choices.

### 8.2.2 Best practice guidance on the provision of allergen Information for food that is not pre-packed

Previously there was no available guidance in this area for industry. The best practice guidance will provide a ready source of information to help businesses deal with requests from consumers about allergens used in food that is sold non-pre-packed. In addition to the benefits for industry, there will be benefits for enforcement bodies, who will also have clear guidance on best practice in this area that they can utilise when visiting food businesses. Consumers will also benefit from easier access to more accurate information, ensuring safe food choices.

### 8.2.3 Benefits

Both pieces of guidance are voluntary, but if followed will help the food industry improve their management of allergens. The food industry will be able to provide clear and accurate information for those consumers whose health is dependent on accurate knowledge about whether or not particular allergenic foods are used in products. It is too early to estimate the cost-health benefit savings of these initiatives.

## 8.3 Better regulation in other parts of the United Kingdom

This Simplification Plan is produced as one in a series of plans published annually by Westminster Government departments. The primary focus of these plans is England. However, as a UK-wide non-ministerial Government Department, the FSA pursues better regulation initiatives UK wide. Many of our initiatives, such as the reviews of forms and guidance, also take account of our activities around the UK. In researching the sector specific review (see Chapter 7) we spoke to businesses in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are initiatives happening independently in the other countries. A good example of this is the risk-based shellfish testing scheme in Scotland.

### 8.3.1 Official control of shellfish in Scotland

The EU food hygiene regulations (EU 854/2004) introduced more explicit requirements for biotoxin monitoring in shellfish production areas. For the first time weekly testing is specified within every classified shellfish production area. However, this may be reduced in specific areas if a risk assessment suggests that this is warranted. FSA Scotland commissioned an independent risk assessment to enable it to direct resources towards those areas with the highest risk of biotoxin events. A new testing regime has been introduced as a result.

Introducing a weekly testing regime for all areas would have cost FSA Scotland over £3 million per year. The independent risk assessment generated robust scientific evidence which has led to the reduction in testing frequency for some toxins and the creation of a risk-based sampling timetable. This has reduced FSA Scotland costs by approximately £2 million per annum.

Businesses have benefited from a reduction in costs associated with the collection of samples. Previously harvesters who gathered shellfish completed the sampling forms and then posted the samples off to the laboratory. The EU food hygiene regulations require samples to be taken in the absence of bias and conflict of interest. To ensure this the new testing regime is supported by dedicated sampling officers employed by the local authorities, supported by funding of £361,000 per year from the FSA.

## 9 Links to the simplification plans

### 9.1 Working with other Government Departments

The FSA works closely with other Government departments. In England, we naturally work with the Department of Health and the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs as solutions to food safety issues often require work across Departmental boundaries. However most recently the FSA has been working with OFSTED, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and others in England on a simplification proposal we received on the registration and inspection of childminders as food businesses.

#### Registration and inspection of child minders as food business operators

Childminders that provide food and drink to children are required under the EU food hygiene legislation to be registered as a food business and are therefore subject to inspection.

Registering and inspecting childminders as food businesses can impose a considerable burden on environmental health officers, particularly due to the high number and turnover of childminders, as well as on the childminders themselves. The majority of childminders are considered low risk, and take inspection resource away from higher risk areas. There may also be duplication of inspection as OFSTED's Early Years Childcare inspectors register and inspect childminders, which may cover basic food hygiene.

The FSA is working with other stakeholders on how the registration and inspection of childminders as a food business could be made more proportionate, benefiting both childminders and local authorities. This work will be concluded during 2008 and reported in full in next year's Plan.

### 9.2 Working with the Meat Hygiene Service

As reported in last year's Simplification Plan the FSA and its Executive Agency, the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), have been working together on how to simplify the burden of providing food chain information to slaughterhouses, as required by new EU food hygiene legislation. An IT-based system would eliminate the vast amount of paperwork required under an alternative system.

Food chain information for all animals consigned for slaughter is required under the EU Food Hygiene Regulations as part of a risk-based, 'farm to fork' approach to food safety controls. In addition, the official veterinarian at a slaughterhouse is required to inform livestock producers of relevant findings at pre- and post-mortem inspection.

## Benefits

The MHS and industry will benefit from having a far simpler system for implementing food chain information compared to a non-IT based system. Information on slaughtered animals will be sent easily to livestock producers.

Consumers will benefit from increased public health protection as information will be easier to access and enable rapid appropriate action to be taken to protect public health.

There may also be benefits for other Government Departments. The database could be a valuable source of animal disease surveillance data for Defra.

There are also policy benefits, as problems would be identified more promptly, enabling more appropriate action to be taken in the interests of industry and public health.

## Transformed Meat Hygiene Service

In October 2006 the FSA Board agreed to a suggestion, from the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) Board and four meat industry associations<sup>34</sup>, to review the delivery of official controls in approved meat premises. These controls are in place to ensure that unsafe meat does not enter the food chain. The objective of the review was to consider if the delivery of these controls was providing necessary consumer protection in a targeted, risk-based and proportionate way that represents value for money for operators, taxpayers, consumers and government.

In July 2007 the FSA Board supported the recommendation in the Review of the Delivery of Official Controls in Approved Meat Premises that Official Controls in Britain<sup>35</sup> should be delivered by a Transformed Meat Hygiene Service (TMHS). The Review looked at transforming the way meat hygiene regulations are enforced in England, Scotland and Wales. The TMHS will be required to meet a series of challenging financial and performance targets which, if met, would result in a reduction in future net operating costs from £35 million in 2007/08 to an estimated £20 million in 2010/11.

<sup>34</sup> British Meat Processors Association; Association of Independent Meat Suppliers; British Poultry Council; Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers

<sup>35</sup> [www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/fsa070706.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/fsa070706.pdf)

## 10 Engaging with stakeholders

This Plan has been developed in collaboration with stakeholders. We are grateful for their continuing interest, input and support for our work in this area. This was best shown at the major stakeholder event we held in June 2007.

### Stakeholder Event



The FSA hosted a major event on 8 June 2007 in order to raise the profile of simplification with external stakeholders and generate more ideas for delivering meaningful simplification. The event brought together different stakeholder groups including consumers, charities, food businesses, enforcement officers and policy makers. A number of suggestions for simplification were made and other issues raised that they would like to see the FSA address. The FSA is already taking forward some of these.

### The key messages from the stakeholder event were:

- The FSA should make it as easy as possible for business and enforcers to understand their responsibilities and for consumers to understand their rights;
- The benefits of simplification were recognised and the Safer Food, Better Business initiative was cited as a best practice benchmark that demonstrated simple, practical help for food businesses in action;
- There was agreement that easy to understand regulations and guidance lead to increased compliance and therefore improved consumer protection. This also helps reduce costs to business and demonstrates that economic and consumer benefits can be aligned, and that appropriate simplification can address both agendas;
- Making information about regulation easier to access and understand increases business confidence that they are compliant. Businesses are therefore more likely to have a more open and honest dialogue with enforcement officers; and
- Simpler regulations are easier for regulators to monitor, therefore reducing enforcement costs and making more effective use of public money.

Suggestions were also made on how the FSA could enhance its role as a regulator in European negotiations, in developing legislation and guidance, and engaging businesses in an honest and timely assessment of the potential impacts on them of EU legislation.

The new simplification initiative on third country imports (see Table C) arose directly from this stakeholder event. We welcome further simplification proposals at any time.

#### How to submit simplification proposals

The Better Regulation Executive has recently re-launched its Better Regulation website, which invites individuals across the public, private and voluntary sectors to submit their ideas for reducing or simplifying regulation. This is the best method for you to submit ideas for FSA-led legislation as well as to other departments, as you can track the progress of your suggestion online [www.betterregulation.gov.uk](http://www.betterregulation.gov.uk)

You will need to register your details on the Better Regulation Website in advance to set up an account but this should only take a few moments to complete. Once your account is set up you can make suggestions for different departments as well as view other suggestions that have been made by other stakeholders.

If you would prefer to discuss ideas or suggestions for simplification you can also contact the FSA directly and we will be happy to answer any questions. However, any suggestions that the FSA does take forward will be submitted to the Better Regulation Website.

## 11 Tables - Details of simplification initiatives

This section shows in more detail those initiatives that have been delivered since the last Plan; reports on progress of initiatives identified in the last Plan, but not yet delivered; and reports on the new initiatives that we have subsequently identified for action. This information is included in the following tables:

- Table A: Simplification measures delivered between May 2005 and October 2007.
- Table B: Simplification measures identified in the 2006 Plan, but not delivered by October 2007.
- Table C: New simplification measures identified since last year.
- Table D: Regulations introduced since May 2005 with additional administrative burdens.
- Table E: Revocations since May 2005 that have removed administrative burdens.

There are two other tables:

- Table F: Regulatory flow grid – flow of new regulations.
- Table G: Forms the FSA requires business to complete.

### Areas where we have not achieved the anticipated reductions

#### Consolidation of Chemical contaminants and Food contact materials

The FSA's first Plan identified a number of simplification initiatives on the consolidation of chemical containments and food contact materials. Feedback from industry was that while there have been benefits from the consolidation; these have been overtaken by further measures introduced by the EU which have reduced these benefits. These new measures have, however, been implemented in the most proportionate way possible.

**Table A: Simplification measures delivered between May 2005 and October 2007**

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost saving (admin or policy)	Delivery
<p>1. Replacement of the Over Thirty Month (OTM) rule</p>	<p>OTM rule protected consumers from BSE by banning the sale for human consumption of meat from cattle aged over 30 months at slaughter. Farmers were compensated for OTM cattle destroyed.</p>	<p>Following a review of the OTM rule, in July 2004 the FSA advised Government that replacing the OTM rule with BSE testing for cattle born on or after 1 August 1996 was justified on grounds of the food borne risk to consumers and proportionality. This was subject to a robust testing system. Ministers agreed. Legislation has been introduced that replaces the OTM rule with a BSE testing regime for cattle born on or after 1 August 1996.</p> <p>The earlier legislation contained derogation from the OTM rule which allowed cattle aged up to 42 months to be slaughtered for human consumption under certain circumstances. Businesses applying for this derogation were required to complete two forms; an application form and a separate form for each animal slaughtered. This requirement has now been removed.</p>	<p>Benefit to livestock farmers as cattle born on or after 1 August 1996 can now enter the food chain as long as they test negative for BSE. Revenue from the sale of cattle for human consumption is greater than that which farmers received through the compensation scheme.</p> <p>Savings to the Exchequer due to fewer compensation payments being made.</p>	<p>The overall savings from this initiative have been split between the FSA and Defra. Below is FSA's share:</p> <p><b>Business</b> Total benefits to farmers in terms of increased revenue from sale of cattle are estimated at £39.2 million annually.</p> <p><b>Government</b> Estimated cost savings post OTM rule abolition are estimated at £103.5 million in year one and £110 million in year two.</p>	<p>Legislation to replace the OTM rule came into force on 7 November 2005.</p> <p>Local authorities will no longer have to process licence applications. Some local authorities claimed that the administrative cost of the system exceeded the £100 annual licence fee.</p>
<p>2. Discontinuation of butchers' licensing.</p>	<p>Licensing of Butchers was introduced across the UK in 2000 and 2001 following a fatal outbreak of E.coli O157 food poisoning in central Scotland in 1996.</p>	<p>Remove the requirement for use butchers' licensing. This decision was on the basis that new EU food hygiene legislation, introduced on 1 January 2006, provided equivalent levels of public health protection to those available under the previous legislation</p>	<p>Butchers are no longer required to pay the £100 annual licence fee. They will no longer have to complete licence applications.</p>	<p>Private sector Estimated annual saving for butchers of £1.376 million:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>from removing licence fee is estimated to be £1.3 million per annum;</li> <li>administrative saving from no longer having complete licence application forms is estimated at £75,800 per annum.</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Butchers' licensing was discontinued from 1 January 2006.</p>

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<p>3. Development of a central database (GRAIL) to store legislation and guidance on UK food imports.</p>	<p>Enforcement Officers in Port Health Authorities (PHAs) and Local Authorities (LAs) were required to keep large quantities of paper records. These records were time consuming to search and it was difficult to ensure they had up to date information. This resulted in inconsistent enforcement between enforcement officers and PHAs/LAs.</p>	<p>The development of a computer based, searchable resource of all information on imported food controls for enforcement authorities - the Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Imports Legislation (GRAIL) Database. The database also gives officers clear guidance on the import controls relating to specific products.</p> <p>This has initially been made available to PHAs at all major points of entry into the UK for foodstuffs. A new browser-based version, which will be available to all UK LAs is due to be launched in late 2007.</p>	<p>PHAs which have been using GRAIL since summer 2004 have indicated that they have found the system to be an invaluable tool in providing them with clear, comprehensive and up to date guidance on import controls. Their feedback has been used to inform development of the updated version of GRAIL.</p> <p>Companies importing certain food products through the ports where GRAIL is in use may also have benefited from a more effective enforcement process.</p>	<p>Four of the PHAs at the busiest points of entry for food stuffs have indicated total annual savings between them of £18,000.</p> <p>The remaining 21 PHAs have found it difficult to quantify the savings made, but have indicated that savings have been made both in terms of staff time and in other resources e.g. paper, printing etc.</p>	<p>Version 1 of GRAIL was delivered to the PHAs at major points of entry into the UK for foodstuffs in summer 2004.</p> <p>Feedback on the operation of this system has been used to inform development of GRAIL Version 2 which will be browser based, accessible by all UK LAs and have greater functionality. GRAIL Version 2 is due to be launched in early 2008.</p>
<p>4. Changes in specified risk material (SRM) controls associated with the lifting of the export ban on UK beef in spring 2006.</p>	<p>Limiting the removal of bovine vertebral column (VC) SRM to MHS approved premises only.</p>	<p>Derogation taken up to permit removal of bovine VC SRM from animals aged 24 to 30 months in authorised butchers' premises.</p>	<p>Continuity in market opportunity for butchers to hang carcasses on premises to achieve traditional matured beef flavour.</p> <p>Main benefits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional butchers</li> <li>• Farm shops</li> <li>• On line sales</li> </ul>	<p>UK-wide policy saving of £5 million with £4 million of this arising in Great Britain and £1 million in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Commission Regulation 999/2001 (as amended) Annex V Point 4.3 (b).</p> <p>Enforced in England via the TSE Regs (No 2) (Amendment) Regs 2007 Schedule 6 Paras 14 and 17, and by equivalent measures in the other countries of the UK.</p>

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5. Incorporating the work of the Wine Standards Board (WSB) into the Food Standards Agency	The WSB was a small NDPB, funded by Defra and the Vintners' Company, responsible for wine regulation enforcement. It had an annual budget of around £530,000.	Being stand alone imposed unavoidable costs, for example administrative support, payroll and accounting, pension scheme administration, and the periodic use of advisers/consultants e.g. use of IT consultants to augment in-house skills. Hampton identified synergies by incorporating the work of WSB in the FSA.	Transfer to the FSA achieved economies of scale. The headcount was reduced by two, as the same level of dedicated office support was no longer required. Benefits include improved access to legal advice and to FSA technical experts in wine related matters, as well as increased interaction with Trading Standards. The bespoke pension scheme was closed and members transferred to the PCSPS, with cost savings.	Around £10,000 reduction in running costs. There may be some minimal off-setting of these savings through the setting up and running of a new independent appeals procedure.	The WSB merged with the FSA on 1 July 2006, one of the first Hampton recommendations to be implemented. The year since assimilation has largely been business as usual but, in June, the draft Wine Standards Enforcement Policy was issued for public comment. This marks the start of a change process that will make the service more effective and responsive to its stakeholders.

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<p>6. Reduced Official Veterinary (OV) presence in Cutting Plants</p>	<p>The requirement for veterinary presence throughout post-mortem inspection in cutting plants of 1 hour per day for high throughput and 1 hour per week for low throughput establishments.</p>	<p>Following the introduction of the EU food hygiene legislation in January 2006 a risk-based auditing system was introduced which reduced the requirement for veterinary supervision in cutting plants.</p>	<p>The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) benefits from having to visit cutting plants less often relying on audit-based systems rather than presence at the cutting plant. This is estimated to reduce the number of hours spent by the MHS at cutting plants by approximately 88 percent.</p> <p><b>Cutting Plants</b> While there may be an increased burden for the business, as the onus will be on the operator to demonstrate compliance as part of the MHS audit, better managed plants will be audited less frequently, driving the earned autonomy envisaged in the Hampton report.</p>	<p><b>The Meat Hygiene Service</b> The net saving realised as a result of the introduction of the EU food hygiene legislation was £2.3m. The annual saving (Jan-Dec 2005 vs Jan-Dec 2006) was £3.9m. However, only £2.3m of this was realised as the effect of the legislation on co-located sites was to move the hour a day spent at the co-located Cutting Plants (worth £1.6m) directly to the co-located slaughterhouse. This was because the vets still had to remain on the site through ante- and post-mortem.</p> <p><b>Cutting Plants</b> Between 2004/05 and 2006/07 fees paid by Cutting Plants to the MHS have gone down by £1.3 million, from £3.5 million to £2.2 million. These fees are expected to reduce further by an estimated £1.6 million by the end of 2007/08. This reduction in fees is partly a result of reduced OV attendance, but also due to other changes in the charges made by the MHS to Cutting Plants. It is not possible to estimate what proportion of the lower charges is specifically a result of reduced OV attendance at Cutting Plants.</p>	<p>From 1 January 2006</p>

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7. Safer Food Better Business	Requirement in EU food hygiene Legislation introduced in January 2006 on food business operators to document their food safety management systems.	Development of Safer Food, Better Business tools that allow small businesses to implement these hygiene procedures in an effective and proportionate way.	<p>The Safer Food, Better Business packs provide a number of benefits, both to business and consumers.</p> <p>Hygiene standards improved in small food businesses such as caterers and retailers. The number of businesses reported as having satisfactory food safety procedures increased to 45% in the period to April 2006.</p> <p>Feedback from businesses shows general improvements – reduced waste etc., making businesses more effective</p> <p>Local authorities and businesses benefit from improved consistency and easier inspections.</p> <p>Consumers benefit from reduced incidence of food poisoning.</p>	<p>The FSA estimates that the administrative burden of implementing the regulations using a classic HACCP system would have been £1.04 per food business, per day.</p> <p>Introducing Safer Food Better Business so far for small caterers and food retailers has reduced this to an estimated 43p per business, per day. This represents a saving for every food business of some £224 per year, or 60 per cent of the original - an estimated total saving of £128 million. These costs were agreed by the Expert Panel which met in September 2006 to measure the administrative burden of the EU food hygiene regulations.</p>	<p>Packs for Chinese and Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani &amp; Bangladeshi cuisines launched; 300,000 packs have now been distributed to businesses.</p> <p>By March 2008, grant-funded projects with local authorities will have directly assisted over 50,000 small businesses and improved hygiene standards.</p> <p>Work is in hand to ensure the programme becomes part of mainstream enforcement activity – driving towards a risk-based Hampton approach.</p>
8. New enforcement regime for farms	The EU food hygiene regulations from January 2006 applying for the first time to most primary production (i.e. farming) sectors and consequent need for enforcement procedures, such as inspections, to enforce the regulations.	The FSA, in partnership with local authority enforcers and the farming industry, has developed enforcement procedures so that those farmers that are members of a recognised farm assurance scheme would be subject to a lower frequency of food hygiene inspections. The initial proposal is to visit 2 per cent each year of farms who are members of recognised farm assurance schemes as opposed to 25 per cent of farms who are not members of such schemes.	<p>Reducing burden of inspection on approximately 60,000 farms in England and those 150 local authorities in England containing farms.</p>	<p>The saving to farmers from the reduced number of inspections in England is £300,594 per annum.</p> <p>The savings to local authorities through the reduced need for inspections is £ 580,150 per annum.</p>	<p>Procedures put in place from 1 December 2006.</p> <p>The procedures will be kept under review.</p>

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<p>9. New registration regime for farms</p>	<p>The food hygiene regulations require all farms to register their premises with the 'competent authority' (i.e. the local authority).</p>	<p>FSA received confirmation from the EC that existing lists/register of farms held for other purposes (e.g. by Defra or its agencies) would cover the requirement for all food businesses to be registered.</p>	<p>Reducing burden of registration on approximately 107,000 farms in England and those 150 local authorities in England containing farms.</p>	<p>Savings to farmers from not having to undertake the requirement to register is a one-off saving of £1,465,900.</p> <p>One-off savings to local authorities from not having to record each farm individually on databases etc in England is estimated to be £213,108.</p>	<p>Procedures put in place from 1 December 2006.</p> <p>The procedures will be kept under review.</p>
<p>10. Removal of botulism restrictions in cattle - Voluntary restrictions for healthy cattle from farms where cases of botulism are suspected</p>	<p>Milk and meat from healthy cattle was prevented from entering the food chain. This resulted in a loss of revenue and disposal costs of milk which was not allowed to enter the food chain.</p>	<p>Following advice by the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) that public health would not be compromised, the Agency removed the requirement to place voluntary restrictions on milk and meat from healthy cattle from farms where cases of botulism are suspected.007.</p>	<p>Public health protection is maintained. Farmers no longer incur disposal costs and loss of revenue for milk produced by healthy cattle.</p>	<p>Savings of £150k annually, approximately £77k of which is from milk revenue and £73k from disposal costs that would otherwise have been incurred.</p>	<p>Amended advice issued in December 2006  <a href="http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2006/dec/botulismcattle">http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2006/dec/botulismcattle</a></p>

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<p>11. Production of UK Guidance Notes for Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (Traceability)</p>	<p>The FSA's 2005 public consultation on the EC guidance for Regulation (EC) 178/2002 that covers product traceability requirements, revealed costs that were not raised in previous consultations on the Regulation itself.</p> <p>The consultation also revealed that the overall view was that the EC's guidance was complex, not as helpful as it could be and did not necessarily help businesses comply with the legislative requirements.</p>	<p>The FSA has published Guidance Notes which take into account the EC guidance and which are clearer, simpler and more appropriate for UK businesses.</p> <p>The new Guidance Notes provide advice on compliance with legal requirements covering food safety, traceability provisions and the need to withdraw and/or recall products not conforming to the food safety requirements under the regulations.</p>	<p>The Guidance Notes are the principal non-statutory guidance to UK food businesses on compliance with the requirements of regulation (EC) 178/2002.</p> <p>The Guidance Notes remove the additional burdens resulting from the best practice recommendations of the EC guidance, which has led to a decrease in the administrative burden borne by food businesses.</p>	<p>The cross-Government administrative burden measurement exercise conducted in 2006 estimated the administrative burden for all food businesses to comply with the EC Guidance to be £16 million annually. This does not include the burden incurred by business in complying with the legal requirements of the regulation.</p> <p>It is estimated that the introduction of the new FSA Guidance Notes has removed the majority of the administrative burden created by following the EC guidance. However, business start-up costs, which include reading guidance, are estimated to be £365,000 per year. There are estimated to be 34,600 food business start-ups per year.</p>	<p>New guidance notes were published on 20 July 2007 <a href="http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/foodguid/generalfoodlaw">http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/foodguid/generalfoodlaw</a></p>

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<p>12. Consolidation of existing UK legislation on bottled water into the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water Regulations 2007.</p>	<p>The requirements of the 1999 regulations on bottled water are extensive and complex and must be read in conjunction with the EU legislation that it implements.</p> <p>Amendments to these regulations complicate interpretation of these requirements by imposing significant amendments to the original legislation.</p>	<p>The FSA will consolidate the existing UK legislation into one Statutory Instrument to simplify interpretation.</p> <p>Prior to the legislation coming into force, the FSA will produce guidance for industry and enforcement authorities in consultation with stakeholders (including LACORS) to increase understanding of the consolidated legislation.</p>	<p>Bottled water producers (64 in total in the UK) and retailers, enforcement authorities and the competent authorities will benefit from this consolidation and associated guidance as the legislation will be easier to comprehend. Consumers will also benefit, as easier compliance will increase consumer safety elements of the legislation.</p> <p>The final draft of the regulations will ensure that the policy regarding water hardness does not compromise the simplification gain.</p>	<p>Consumer benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• safer bottled water as regulations will be simpler to comply with.</li> </ul> <p>Private sector savings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• annual saving for bottled water industry: £80,000.</li> </ul> <p>Through consultation with stakeholders, it is estimated that the reduction in staff time required to comprehend the new consolidated legislation compared to existing legislation would generate an administrative cost saving of £80,000 per year for the private sector.</p> <p>There will also be savings for enforcement authorities and the FSA but these have not been quantified.</p>	<p>31 October 2007.  <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2007/20072785.htm">www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2007/20072785.htm</a></p>

**Table B: Simplification measures identified in the 2006 Plan, but not delivered by October 2007.**

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost saving (admin or policy)	Delivery
<p>1. Review of Enforcement Policy. Providing local authorities with flexibility to choose the appropriate means of delivering food law enforcement.</p>	<p>Current policy (in a statutory Code of Practice) requires that all food premises are subject to a full inspection at intervals based on a risk rating.</p>	<p>The new enforcement policy will be set out in an amended Code of Practice. This will provide LAs with a range of interventions, allowing them to choose what is appropriate for the individual premises. They will then be able to focus resources and work on areas of greatest need.</p>	<p><b>Local authorities</b> will benefit by being able to use existing resources to maximum effect, by focusing on areas of greatest need, and not having to continue with full inspections of well run businesses.</p> <p><b>Businesses</b> with good records of compliance with the law should benefit from simpler and less intrusive and time consuming interventions.</p>	<p><b>Local authorities.</b> The policy objective is to use existing resources more effectively. There is currently no firm evidence to compare the time and costs of interventions and inspections. Views will be sought during the planned consultation.</p> <p><b>Businesses</b> with good records of compliance with the law should have reduced costs. These costs will be sought during the consultation. The proposed reduction in amount of information required when registering a food business establishment will reduce administrative burdens for new businesses by an estimated £400,000 per year.</p>	<p>The review of enforcement policy and of amendments to the Code of Practice is in progress, and a full consultation was launched in England in September 2007 <a href="http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2007/foodlawcpcengreview07">http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2007/foodlawcpcengreview07</a>; and in Northern Ireland in October 2007 and Wales in November 2007. A consultation in Scotland will follow. The target implementation date for England is 1 April 2008. Other parts of the UK will follow during 2008/09.</p>

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost saving (admin or policy)	Delivery
<p>2. Review of the Monitoring System for food law enforcement. Simplifying the method by which local authorities submit monitoring data on food law enforcement to the FSA.</p>	<p>Local authorities are required to make an annual return on their food law enforcement.</p>	<p>The FSA is reviewing both the content of the returns and the means of delivery, to make it simpler and easier to use, so leading to more accurate and reliable data.</p> <p>A new monitoring system will allow direct data transmission, reducing the time local authorities spend on their returns, saving administrative costs.</p>	<p>Local authorities will benefit from less time being required to submit data to the FSA. The FSA will benefit as data will be easier to manage system.</p>	<p>Difficult to estimate, as reductions in staff time will vary between local authorities, depending on existing systems and operators.</p> <p>Administrative savings are estimated at up to £56,000 in year one, and up to £29,000 per year thereafter.</p> <p>However, there will be one-off initial increased costs of £343,000 for local authorities in setting up and in training for the new system.</p>	<p>The review is still in progress, and is planned for completion by December 2007, and for implementation across the UK from 1 April 2008.</p> <p>The timetable for implementation is as follows: February 2007 - the central data requirement was agreed and published to the IT companies and LAs; November 2007 – revised final data requirement published.</p> <p>End December 2007 - IT companies have developed their new products; January to March 2008 – initial training for LAs by the FSA.</p> <p>Initial set-up costs will arise in 2007/08 and 2008/09.</p> <p>Administrative savings will begin in 2009/10, when the first annual returns under the new system are made.</p>

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost saving (admin or policy)	Delivery
<p><b>3. Development of best practice guidance on allergen labelling guidance</b></p> <p>Best practice guidance on the provision of allergen information for food that is not pre-packed.</p>	<p>Need to have information on allergenic ingredients used in products and present in part-prepared ingredients that are bought in.</p>	<p>Previously there was no guidance in this area available for industry, who therefore had no ready source of information to help them deal with requests from consumers about allergens used in the food that was being prepared.</p>	<p>The guidance is voluntary, but if followed will help industry improve their management of food allergens. Industry will be able to provide clear and accurate information for those consumers whose health is dependent on accurate knowledge about whether or not particular allergenic foods are used in products.</p>	<p>It is too early to estimate the cost-health benefit savings of these pieces of guidance.</p>	<p>The guidance and the leaflet are intended to be published in early 2008</p>
<p><b>4. Consolidation of guidance accompanying allergen labelling legislation.</b></p>	<p>Industry need to read and understand the requirements of the legislation.</p>	<p>There are currently two pieces of relevant legislation, plus a further piece that is intended to be implemented by 23 December 2007. The existing pieces of legislation each have their own guidance to help interpretation of the requirements. We are taking the opportunity when we implement the new legislation, to consolidate the two previous pieces of guidance and include the new provisions into a single guidance document.</p>	<p>This will provide benefits for industry and enforcement officers as all the guidance accompanying the various pieces of allergen labelling legislation will be in one document. It will therefore be easier to find, read and understand and will help industry comply with the legislative provisions.</p>	<p>A public consultation on the new draft legislation is seeking evidence on the reduction in burdens arising from the revised and consolidated guidance.</p>	<p>The national legislation implements EC legislation which sets a deadline of 23 December 2007 for Member States. Potential risks to delivery include lack of Parliamentary clearance or new significant pieces of work that would divert resources.</p>

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<p><b>5. Food additives improvement agents package</b></p> <p>Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on food additives</p>	<p>The requirement for the authorisation of additives before they are placed on the market, currently under Directive 95/2/EC.</p>	<p>There is currently a framework Directive and three separate pieces of legislation governing additives – colours, miscellaneous additives and sweeteners. The miscellaneous additives and the sweeteners regulations have each been amended a number of times. These separate pieces of legislation will be consolidated into one single piece of legislation.</p> <p>The structure to the annexes will be changed so that food categories will appear and show which additives are permitted to be used in each food category. (This is a change from most of the current annexes which list food additives and show the food categories in which they can be used)</p> <p>To confer on the EC powers to update the EU list of authorised food additives i.e. comitology (this is currently carried out under co-decision procedure).</p>	<p>Industry and enforcement authorities will benefit from having the legislation consolidated into one document to simplify understanding and interpretation.</p> <p>Increases consumer protection as the new legislation will be easier for industry to use and comply with, and also make enforcement easier for the authorities.</p> <p>Savings for industry – they will potentially be able to bring to the market new additives earlier than under the present system.</p>	<p><b>Business</b></p> <p>The FSA estimates that if these proposals are adopted annual savings of around £1 million per year could be achieved.</p> <p>Savings for industry as a result of the introduction of comitology procedures could be in the region of hundreds of thousands of pounds for each new additive.</p> <p><b>Enforcement bodies.</b></p> <p>Savings for industry could be in the region of hundreds of thousands of pounds for each new additive.</p>	<p>Still in negotiation between the European Council and Parliament.</p>
<p><b>6. EC proposal for a comprehensive review of animal feed labelling.</b></p>	<p>Not possible to estimate at this stage, but could entail some reductions in compliance costs for both industry and enforcement bodies.</p>	<p>The replacement of four separate Directives which have required transposition into Members States' legislation with a single Regulation which will apply directly.</p>	<p>A harmonised regulation will help resolve existing inconsistencies between the four Directives, eliminate redundant provisions, and provide all stakeholders, particularly the feed industry and enforcement bodies, with a single comprehensive document.</p>	<p>Not possible to estimate at this stage.</p>	<p>Not possible to estimate at this stage -- negotiations on the proposal are likely to take at least two years.</p>

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<p>7. Development of a UK Food Surveillance System (FSS) to provide standardised data capture, storage, querying and reporting functionality for the microbiological and chemical analysis of food samples.</p>	<p>Local authority enforcement officers are required to take food and animal feed samples for analysis to ensure all food and feed sold is safe and of an appropriate standard. Historically, this process has involved large quantities of paper being passed between local authorities and their respective public analysts/microbiological testing lab, which ultimately must be stored by the LA.</p> <p>To date the process of determining what to sample has generally been carried out by local authorities in isolation, with little or no intelligence of national sampling priorities. The benefits of implementing this system include identification of trends and emerging potential public health issues. It will also enable better targeting of resources and can prevent duplication of sampling where no safety concern exists. The system will allow faster and more standardised and accurate exchange of information between LAs, public analysts and government agencies.</p>	<p>In order to simplify and improve the management of local authority sampling process, the Agency is funding a 3 year contract to roll out a UK Food Surveillance System. The system enables the electronic transfer of sampling data (both chemical and microbiological) between local authorities and public analyst laboratories, ultimately to be stored both in the originating authorities IT system and a national centralised database.</p> <p>The system is being delivered to all of the LAs in the UK in a phased roll-out, with all LAs having received training and with full access to the system by end of 2008.</p>	<p>The benefits of the system are far reaching. Apart from the obvious advantages to local authority officers of having a single data entry point from which all aspects of food sampling can be managed and stored, searchable centrally held data can be used to identify trends and hazards in real time, enabling immediate UK response to potential public health issues.</p>	<p>Approx £10 million is spent per year on sample analysis. This figure does not represent local authority officer time spent in taking and managing food samples.</p> <p>At this early stage, it is difficult to gauge the true economic savings made. Approx. 50,000 samples have been entered on to the system since May 2005. Once officers are familiar with the system, the time required for sample data entry is greatly reduced. The ability to submit mandatory reports to the FSA via this system will additionally save a great deal of time.</p> <p>It is difficult to quantify the cost savings associated with the immediate response to emerging potential public health issues that may be identified through the UK FSS.</p>	<p>The project will not be complete until end 2008. The system has been operational in 32 Scottish and 24 English LAs for 2 years and 26 LAs Northern Ireland authorities since January 2007. The remainder of the Scottish, English and Welsh local authorities will come on to the system by end 2008.</p>

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost saving (admin or policy)	Delivery
<p><b>8. Pesticide minimisation</b> Development of best-practice guidance on pesticides residue minimisation for 5 crops: apples, pears, tomatoes, cereals potatoes and tomatoes</p>	<p>There is scope and the intention to develop the system so that it will automatically generate mandatory reports required by EU law. This will represent a considerable reduction in the burden currently levied on local authority officers.</p> <p>Diverse guidance on pesticide minimisation made it difficult for business and consumers to understand.</p>	<p>The FSA produced pesticide residue minimisation guides for 5 UK grown crops in recognition of consumer preference for minimal residues on and in food.</p> <p>FSA Board agreed a residue minimisation action plan in 2004 - the crop guides are key to the action plan.</p> <p>The guides were the outcome of an FSA study, involving a wide range of stakeholders, to determine where the Agency could provide the most effective lead to reduce residues.</p>	<p><b>Food industry (wide audience from farmer to retailer)</b> will benefit from the guides as they will raise awareness of the issue of pesticide residues across the industry and support delivery of existing pesticide residue minimisation initiatives.</p> <p>The guides link together as much as possible of the available information, initiatives and best-practices relating to pesticide residue minimisation so that all relevant initiatives can be found in one place.</p> <p><b>Consumers</b> will benefit in terms of increased access to lower residues without necessarily an increase in price and increased consumer confidence in UK grown crops in relation to pesticide residue levels.</p>	<p><b>Food industry (farmer to retailer) savings</b></p> <p>Potentially, there are financial benefits from time saved by using the guides, as the guides offer a single consolidated source of information on residue minimisation for the 5 UK grown crops.</p>	<p>Discussions are ongoing with stakeholders to determine how the guides can be best used as a source material to extract appropriate information for specific sectors, such as producers for example through leaflets or key actions table.</p> <p>Through these discussions we will determine the costs and savings associated with the initiative.</p> <p>Based on these discussions,, decide what is needed in terms of specific information that can be extracted from the guides to maximise their uptake by the industry.</p> <p>Assured Produce Scheme are to review their protocols in the light of FSA crop guides by 2008</p> <p>The crop guides are already on Defra's Whole Farm Approach (WFA) 'adlib' library. In November 2007 the guides will be included in the WFA searchable library for farmers with the 'key actions' up front.</p>

**Table C: New simplification measures identified since May 2007**

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost saving (admin or policy)	Delivery
1. Irradiated foods consolidation and rationalisation	The existing regulations Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations 1990 have two separate amendments and are complicated for business to understand. The legalisation also sets out the fees to be charged for licence applications and inspections.	A change to the legislation is necessary to implement EU Directive 1999/2/EC correctly, in terms of officially recognised third country irradiation facilities. This opportunity is also being taken to remake and rationalise the regulations into a single Statutory Instrument.	Two beneficial outcomes for industry: (i) The legislation will be easier for industry to use and comply with, and also make enforcement easier for the authorities. (ii) The fees charged for licence applications and official inspections in the current legislation will be removed.	The estimated savings to industry of these outcomes are currently estimated to be around £150 per year.	Target date for implementation is April 2008
2. Childminders required to register with Environmental Health Departments (EHD).	Childminders that provide food and drink to children are required under the EU food hygiene legislation to be registered as a food business and are therefore subject to inspection by a qualified Environmental Health Officer (EHO). This is in addition to registering with inspections carried out by Ofsted inspectors.	Data sharing of registration details between Ofsted and EHDs.. Possible sharing of inspection between Ofsted and EHDs.	Reduced burden to the approximately 80,000 registered childminders in England. Possible savings to local authorities and Ofsted.	These are currently unknown.	This work is expected to be concluded during 2008.
3. Food Hygiene Review	Council Directive 97/78/EC laying down the principles governing veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries. This can be cumbersome for industry and enforcers unless such veterinary checks are risk-based and clarification obtained on checks required for composite products.	The EC is reviewing this Directive.  The position regarding composite products has been clarified and such products, subject to their composition, do not need veterinary checks at Border Inspection Posts.	In the longer term, this may lead to a more risk-based assessment in respect of animal and public health checks on imported food.  Guidance has been issued by the Agency to the industry and enforcers.	A formal impact assessment may be necessary when proposals are tabled by the EC.	Currently estimated at 2012, but is dependent on the EC and Council progress.

**Table D: Regulations introduced since May 2005 with an additional administrative burdens**

New/amended regulations and In force date	Source of legislation	Summary description	Estimated administrative burden increase/ decrease	In force Date
1. EU Food Hygiene Regulations	<b>European</b> - Implementing EU Regulations 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004).	European Regulations that modernise and consolidate the previous sector specific EU food hygiene legislation. The regulations apply effective and proportionate controls throughout the food chain, from primary production to sale or supply to the final consumer. Regulations focus controls on risk areas to ensure public health protection.	Increase - £90 million per year additional administrative costs	01 January 2007
2. EU Regulation 1831/2005 on Feed Hygiene	<b>European</b> – directly applying EU Regulations.	Applying the same standards of hygiene to the feed industry.	Increase - £ 72 million per year additional administrative costs.	01 January 2007
3. Feeding Stuffs Regulations (England) 2005	<b>European</b> – Consolidating previous legislation and implementing EU Directive 2004/716 and EU Regulation 1831/2003 .	Regulations that simplify and consolidate the Feeding Stuffs Regulations 2000, which have been amended several times, and provide for the enforcement of EC Regulation 1831/2003 on feed additives..	Increase - £2 million per year additional administrative costs.	01 January 2007
4. The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (No 2) Regulations 2006	<b>European</b> – directly applying regulation EC 999/2001.	Regulation (EC) 999/2001 and its amendments set out the requirements for the monitoring, control & eradication of TSEs as well as the controls on feeding stuffs and specified risk material (SRM) in relation to TSEs.	Increase - £29 thousand per year additional administrative costs.	03 May 2006
5. The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) (No.2) Regulations 2006	<b>European</b> – implementing Commission Directive 2005/79/EC.	Regulations to consolidate and simplify regulations in England governing substances used in food contact plastics, adhesives and coatings.	Increase - £41 thousand per year additional administrative costs	19 November 2006
6. Fishery Products (Official Control Charges) (England) Regulations 2006	<b>European</b> – implementing Article 27 of European Council Regulation 882/2004 on Official Feed and Food Controls.	Regulations to outline the application of hygiene inspection charges for direct landings of fish and fishery products in England.	Increase - £463 thousand per year additional administrative costs	01 January 2007
7. Meat (Official Controls Charges) (England) Regulations 2006	<b>European</b> – European – implementing Regulation 882/2004 on Official Feed and Food Controls.	Regulations to outline the charging for meat hygiene official controls at approved meat establishments..	Increase - £108 thousand per year additional administrative costs	01 January 2007

**Table E: Revocations since May 2005 that have removed administrative burdens**

Regulation	Administrative Burden	Date of Revocation
Collagen and Gelatine (Intra-Community Trade) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2003	£293 per year	01 January 2006
Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1995	£14 million per year	01 January 2006
Egg Products Regulations 1993	£35 thousand per year	01 January 2006
Food Premises (Registration) Regulations 1991 (as amended)	£1 million per year	01 January 2006
Food Safety (Fishery Products and Live Shellfish) (Hygiene) Regulations 1998	£4 million per year	01 January 2006
Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995	£1 million per year	01 January 2006
Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	£11 million per year	01 January 2006
Gelatine (Intra-Community Trade) (England) Regulations 2001	£30 per year	01 January 2006
Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1959	£108 per year	01 January 2006
Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) (Charges) Regulations 1998	£5 thousand per year	01 January 2006
Meat Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1994	£9 million per year	01 January 2006
Minced Meat and Meat Preparations (Hygiene) Regulations 1995	£2 million per year	01 January 2006
Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	£1 million per year	01 January 2006
Wild Game Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	£80 thousand per year	01 January 2006
Coffee Extracts and Chicory Extracts (England) Regulations 2000	£862 per year	01 January 2006
Imported Food Regulations 1984	£675 per year	01 January 2006
Feeding Stuffs (Establishments and Intermediaries) Regulations 1999	£88 thousand per year	01 January 2006
Fresh Meat (Beef Controls (No.2) Regulations 1996	£1 thousand per year	01 May 2006
Feeding Stuffs Regulations 2000	£8 million per year	01 January 2006

**Table F: Regulatory flow grid - flow of new regulations**

This table lists the flow of new regulations coming into force after October 2007. These have already been reported in the FSA Common Commencement Date statements (<http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/ccd2007>)

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of the Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost (admin or policy)	Implementation timeline
1. The Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2007	None	Apply in England certain elements of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on official controls <sup>37</sup> for which domestic legal measures are necessary.	Contribute to delivering a more effective and consistent application of official feed and food controls.  Contribute towards a reduction in food-borne disease and incidents of contamination leading to an increase in consumer protection and confidence.	The SI does not include any new information obligations on businesses and there are no new administrative costs arising from it which are over and above those that businesses would incur commercially.	Coming into force on 14 December 2007.
2. The Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2007	This SI implements Commission Directive 2006/142/EC into UK law.	This SI requires ingredient labelling of pre-packed foods whenever either molluscs or lupins are deliberately added to that food	This instrument will ensure that consumers are properly informed about the presence of certain allergens in the foods they buy and are protected from false or misleading descriptions in relation to those allergens.	Incremental costs to business are estimated to be minimal. Molluscs or lupins are not common ingredients and, in most cases, will already appear on in the ingredients list of any food to which they have been deliberately added. Industry has 12 months to make any necessary labelling changes allowing most to work them into their normal commercial labelling cycle.  Estimated annual costs to local authorities of approximately £20,000 for sampling.	The SI will come into effect on 23 December 2007. Labelling changes should be in place by 23 December 2008.

<sup>37</sup> Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules. Official Journal L191, 28.5.2004, 1-52.

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of the Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost (admin or policy)	Implementation timeline
3. The Meat (Official Controls Charges)(England) (No 2) Regulations 2007.	Negligible initial costs to change systems to record throughput data (minor simplification of throughput categories).	To introduce revised throughput categories and minimum standard charge rates by 1 January 2008 to ensure continued compliance with the EC requirements for charging for meat hygiene official controls	The throughput rates applicable to adult bovines, boars, low/middle weight ruminants (other than cattle, sheep and goats) and low/middle weight turkeys, will be increased to the required EC minimum level of charge. Will affect operators of approved meat establishments in England - slaughterhouses that process cattle, boars and some ruminants (mainly deer), slaughterhouses that process turkeys and game handling establishments that process boars and/or ruminants (mainly deer).	This will increase charges to business by an estimated £380,500 per annum at current rates..	Coming into force on 31 December 2007. This regulation revokes The Meat (Official Controls Charges) (England) Regulations 2007.
4. Fishery Products (Official Controls Charges) (England) Regulations 2007	A completed written return to enforcement authorities by FBOs relating to the tonnage of fish landed or throughput entering a processing establishment in an account period.	The recovery by enforcement authorities of contributions towards the cost of official controls carried out on direct landings of fish and tonnages of fish entering processing establishments	Recovery of contributions by enforcement authorities closer to the actual cost of official controls.  The policy allows for full cost recovery by local authorities if lower than the fees calculated using the specified minimum legal rates.  Industry benefit by being required to pay the lower of the two amounts.	Up to £27,000 per annum to business in total. There will be an equal benefit to local authorities reflecting the move to full cost recovery.	Coming into force on 1 January 2008. This regulation revokes Fishery Products (Official Controls Charges) (England) Regulations 2006.

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost (admin or policy)	Implementation timeline
5. The Infant Formula and Follow on Formula (England) Regulations 2007	Requirement on infant and follow-on formula manufacturers	<p>Require that formula manufacturers:</p> <p>Change the composition of their products</p> <p>Change the labelling of their products</p> <p>Notify new products to the Agency</p>	<p>The new Directive provides for increased consumer protection compared to the existing infant formula legislation because it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>updates compositional requirements, in line with the most recent advice from pan-European independent scientific experts (the main purpose of the revision);</li> <li>updates provisions clarifying that follow-on formula should only be used by infants from six months of age (the current Directive in force today specifies that follow-on formula can be used from four months);</li> <li>clarifies the provisions on health and nutrition claims on infant formula;</li> <li>lays down a new national notification requirement for infant formulae which will allow EC countries to monitor the marketing of new infant formula more effectively (no such provision exists in the current legislation); and</li> <li>lays down a new requirement that infant formula and follow-on formula be labelled, presented and advertised in such a way as to avoid confusion between them.</li> </ul>	The results of the consultation which finished on 28 September 2007 are being considered and incremental costs being assessed.	Comes in force on 1 January 2008

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost (admin or policy)	Implementation timeline
6. The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	Policy (Enforcement )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A change to age at which bovine vertebral column is classified as SRM from 24 to 30 months;</li> <li>revocation of the Beef Bones Regulations; and</li> <li>introduction of a provision on rules on trade</li> </ul>	a reduction in enforcement requirement and burden. Operators of approved meat premises; slaughterhouses, cutting plants and authorised butchers would benefit from the change.	There are no incremental costs of this regulation.	Coming into force in early 2008.
7. The Meat Products (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	Admin burden (labelling)	It will bring labelling requirements for added starch and protein in certain meat products into line with European labelling requirements.	<p>The proposed change involves removal of the name of the food labelling requirements related to added starch and protein from regulation 5 of the Meat Products Regulations 2003.</p> <p>The general labelling provisions of the food Labelling Regulations 1996 will continue to apply, as will the Food Safety Act 1990.</p> <p>There are an estimated 9310 businesses in the UK who will be affected, including retailers, wholesale meat suppliers, manufacturers of meat products and producers of ingredients mixes.</p> <p>Due to a possible misunderstanding of current legislation, there may be a slight increase in required labelling.</p>	<p>Estimated additional administrative burden cost to businesses of £125k per year.</p> <p>Estimated cost to business from slight increase in inspections £35k per year</p> <p>Estimated increase in enforcement costs to local authorities of up to £150k per year..</p>	Coming into force in early on 6 April 2008

Title/ Policy/ Initiative	Nature of Burden	Description of Simplification Measure	Outcomes (incl. sectors to benefit)	Cost (admin or policy)	Implementation timeline
8. Food Irradiation (England) Regulations 2008	There are no burdens associated with this policy	Consolidation of existing regulations into a single Statutory Instrument	Simplification of the current regulations, with no change in effect to those already affected	No additional costs. Limited simplification savings (see Table C, item 1).	Coming into force on 1 May 2008
9. The <i>draft</i> Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) Regulations 2008	No new burdens. The Regulations for England will amend the existing rules on food contact plastics.	Reduce the risk to consumers health of effects arising from the consumption of harmful levels of chemicals in food. Implement the provisions of Commission Directive 2009/19/EC into English law. Ensure that the potential for consumers being exposed to harmful levels of substances migrating from food contact plastics to the food itself, is minimised.	Harmonisation of rules between Member States of the EU  Enforcement authorities will be affected as they are responsible for enforcement of food safety legislation.  Businesses that manufacture plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, importers and distributors of such materials and articles.  UK consumers – as they will enjoy the same degree of protection as consumers in the rest of the EU.	The measures will not place new burdens on businesses or new cost implications for enforcement authorities as they simply amend or elaborate the requirements for existing EU provisions on food contact plastics.	Coming into force on 1 May 2008

**Table G: Forms the FSA requires business to complete**

	Form Title	Sector
1.	Application for the Registration of a New Food Business Establishment	Food
2.	Application for Approval	Food
3.	Model Application with a View to Registration or Approval Under the EC Feed Hygiene Regulation (1831/2005)	Feed
4.	Notification of Food for Particular Uses	Food
5.	Notification of Medical Foods	Food
6.	Incident form for food and feed withdrawals and recalls	Food
7.	WSB <sup>38</sup> 10 - Notification of Enrichment	Wine
8.	WSB 12/12A - Harvest Declaration	Wine (Growers)
9.	WSB 13 - Vineyard Registration	Wine (Growers)
10.	WSB 14 – Deacidification	Wine (Producers)
11.	WSB 15 - Commercial Accompanying Document	Wine
12.	WSB 19 - Quality Wine Application	Wine
13.	WSB 21 - Production Declaration	Wine
14.	Application to Licence the Removal of Spinal Chord from Adult Sheep and Goats	Meat
15.	Application for Approval of Meat Establishments Subject to Approval Under (EC) No.853/2004	Meat
16.	Standard Application Form for Classification of Shellfish Harvesting Area	Shellfish

<sup>38</sup> WSB – Wine Standards Branch



