

# Registering as a food business (food banks and charities)

Guidance on whether you need to register as a food business

Anyone working or volunteering with a food bank or food aid charity should be aware of the information in this guide.

## Registering as a food business

You may need to [register as a food business](#) if you, or your operation, provide food to the community, even if it's free, 28 days before you start providing food.

We have specific advice on [how to register as a food business](#).

Before regularly providing food to the community, contact your [local authority food safety team](#) to discuss registration requirements.

As a food business operator, you need to follow the relevant food safety and hygiene requirements, outlined in this guidance. Registering as a food business means your operation will receive [inspections](#) from authorised officers and be given a food hygiene rating, if applicable.

If you only occasionally provide food to the community, you may not need to register as a food business. However, the food you provide should still be safe to eat and we recommend you follow the food safety and hygiene best-practices listed in this guide. Check with your [local food safety team](#) to see if you need to register.

As a food business operator, your [local food safety team](#) can provide further support and advice on matters in this guidance.

We also have food safety and hygiene guidance for [hosting or providing food at a community or charity event](#).