

**Copies of Dogpeople's e-mails to FSA:**

**23/01/2005** 17:09

Subject: New Food Hygiene Regulations

Dear Food Standards Agency,

I apologise for my 'scatter gun' approach to addressees for this message. After consulting your website I am not entirely sure who is the best person to approach with my query. I hope I have found the right person among you. If not I will be grateful if you can forward to the best person. I apologise to any of you not stakeholders in this topic.

We are aware of the need to introduce new regulations with effect from 1.1.06 to meet EU Regulations on food safety / hygiene. We are aware consultation is complete. We have a broad understanding of The Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995 and imagine these will be replaced by the new Regulations.

We try and help stimulate interest in UK tourism through our website ([www.dogpeople.co.uk](http://www.dogpeople.co.uk)) via a number of directories including places to eat. We specialise in the dog owning segment of the market. You may not know This is a significant segment in the UK (The Pet Food Manufacturers Association estimate over 5M dog owning households in 2003) with increasing interest from the near continent now pet passports are available. We would like to be in a good position to advise our customers, and potential new customers, on the new regulations especially any aspect that explicitly affects dogs.

Our understanding of the current regulations is that there is no explicit prohibition of dogs (or other pets) from food consumption areas. We understand that food businesses should construct a risk assessment covering cross contamination hazards (among other topics) and plan to ensure food is not contaminated by animals (or other sources like dirty hands, loose hair etc).

We will welcome advice on proposed changes that might affect catering establishments that allow dogs on the premises. We are particularly interested in your views on risk planning for food consumption areas - as we believe businesses often confuse these with food preparation areas (where, surely, different risks and counter-measures should apply).

Thank you,

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**10/02/2005 08:56**  
Subject: RE: New Food Hygiene Regulations

Dear Mr Gray,

Thank you for your helpful reply and invitation to contact you again.

Thank you for the website references. I followed the one you advised re The new legislation but could not find a link to it (though I did find a link To what I believe to be the relevant EU Regulation). Can you be more specific about how to locate the new UK law please? If easier could you send me a copy by post please? We had already extensively researched your website before contacting you and already knew some of the information you kindly pointed out.

One aspect of our query below doesn't seem to have been addressed - 'We are particularly interested in your views on risk planning for food consumption areas - as we believe businesses often confuse these with food preparation areas (where, surely, different risks and counter-measures should apply).'

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could you expand your reply to cover these points please?

We are especially interested in your views on risk assessment (as we understand it is up to food businesses to take responsibility for ensuring good hygiene and that risk assessment and hazard prevention are key aspects of this).

Do you, for example, have minimum standards you expect businesses to employ (and Local Authorities to enforce) - e.g. a good practice guide?

Do you have a generic risk assessment - especially one that covers the (mainly) cross contamination risks posed by pets?

If so, does this draw distinction between preparation areas and consumption areas?

Indeed, do you have different expectations in preparation and consumption areas at all? If so what?

What guidance do you give Local Authorities to help them enforce food hygiene laws? We are aware of very different interpretations apparently being given on allowing dogs into even consumption areas - we would like to be able to give authoritative advice on this when asked by our customers

and potential customers, obviously FSA's advice is of the up most importance in this.

I am sorry to have asked so many more questions and apologise if my original e mail was not sufficiently detailed.

Yours sincerely,

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