

# British Frozen Food Federation



## TL update 65

February 2013

All reasonable care is taken in the preparation of this newsletter, but no liability is accepted for any loss or damage caused to any person, company or organisation relying on any statement or omission in the contents

### **Highlights in this edition:**

There is new Guidance on Nutrition Tolerances, Fibre Analysis and Allergen Management; the IMech Foodwaste Report, reviews on food security and a new Global foodwaste campaign, and; the European Commission has published a European Retail Action Plan and Green Paper on Unfair Retail Practises

### **Contents**

5 <sup>th</sup> Statement of New Regulation	2	Protective Recommendations for Yersinia	10
USA Export Registration Guidance	2	MMO / Defra Fishing Focus Newsletter	10
Changes to Animal Product Imports from Russia	2	Report Calls for Levies on Sugary Drinks	11
New Quality Schemes to protect Origin	3	Government Proposals on Anti-Competitive Practises	11
Report on FSA Capability Review	3	HMRC Update on Export Advice	11
Consumer Attitudes to GM Labelling	3	BIS: Can Trade Improve Food Security	12
Consultation on the Safety of Aspartame	4	Consumer Survey on Origin Indications	12
Energy Intake Reference Values set by EFSA	4	FSA 2013 Forward Research Plan	12
Micro Risks from Non-Meat Foods	4	Lactic Acid Approved for Beef Carcasses	12
The Importance of Portion Information	5	FDE Allergen Management Guide	13
Summary of Resent FSA Research	5	DNA Barcoding Research	13
FSA Review of Feed Controls	5	Consumer Attitudes to GM Labelling	13
Consultation on Aluminium in Additives	6	Physical Activity in the Workplace	13
National Guides to Good Hygiene Practice	6	Green Paper on Unfair Retail Practises	14
IMECH Global Foodwaste Report	6	Guidance on Methods for Fibre Analysis	14
EC Consultation on Organic Controls	6	Date of Freezing Amendment Put on Hold	14
FDE 2012 Competitiveness Report	7	FAQ's on Veterinary Border Control	15
New Export Registration Requirements for US	7	Animal Protein Approved for Fish Feed	15
Defra Zoonoses Report 2011	7	Defra Consults on Waste Quality Action Plan	15
Defra Food and Feed Statistics Pocketbook 2012	8	NI Consults on Mandatory FHRS	16
Parliamentary Briefing Note on Retail	8	EC Guidance on Nutrition Tolerances	16
FSA Response to "Focus on Enforcement"	8	Defra Consultation on Flour Fortification	16
Analysis finds Packaging Waste Recovery Improving	9	Changes to Generalised System of Preferences	17
European GM Debate: Science Not Fiction	9	Links to Other Information	17
Global Foodwaste Campaign: Think, Eat, Save	9		
Grocery Code Adjudicator Appointed	10		

**Note:** TinyURLs™ are used in this newsletter to replace some long web addresses.

For more about TinyURL™ ('Making long URLs usable'), visit <http://tinyurl.com/>. TinyURL was created as a free service to make posting long URLs easier, and is a trademark of Gilby Productions

## 5<sup>th</sup> Statement of New Regulation

BIS has published the Fifth Statement of New Regulation which reports that the overall closing balance for 'One-in, One-out', the Government rule that dictates that every new cost on business must be balanced by an equivalent saving, is predicted to be around £836 million since January 2011. These figures are independently verified.

Business will benefit from nearly £1 billion in reduced red tape costs thanks to Government action, independent figures revealed today.

Additionally, the statement shows that the Government expects to reduce the regulatory burden by around a further £83 million between January 2013 - when 'One-in, One-Out' is replaced by 'One-in, Two-out' - and June 2013. Expected measures include reforms to environmental regulation, employment law and consumer law. For the full report and news release go to: <http://tinyurl.com/b5dxjyz>

## CIN 2012/72 Guidance on export Registration Requirements for USA

Defra have issued a customer information note to inform exporters that British companies exporting food and drink to the United States need to quickly re-register with the US Government after it overhauled its licensing rules. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have declared that every foreign and domestic food company must re-register by 31 January 2013 otherwise they will temporarily lose access to the US market.

The FDA will then require this re-registration every two years – with the next registration required in 2014. Full details can be found on the Defra website using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/cf749f5>

## CIN 2012/75 Changes to Animal Product Imports from Russia

Defra have recently issued a customer information note informing of revised import conditions for certain meat, meat products and eggs from Russia in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1162/2012; Russia has been regionalised and now includes a separate region of Kaliningrad. This means that:

Whilst the whole of Russia is eligible to export meat products/stomachs, bladders and intestines derived from poultry, farmed feathered game, domestic rabbits and farmed leporidae, wild cloven hoofed game, wild swine, wild leporidae, and wild land mammalian game; the region of Kaliningrad is additionally eligible to export to the EU meat products/stomachs, bladders and intestines derived from domestic bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals, farmed cloven hoofed game and domestic solipeds; the rest of Russia (other than Kaliningrad) is only eligible for transit through the Union of these products Commission Decision 2007/777/EC has been amended accordingly.

With respect to poultry meat and eggs, the whole of Russia is eligible to export fresh poultry meat, eggs and egg products to the EU. It should be noted that for Gallus gallus only 'Class B' eggs ie those for further processing, are permitted. Eggs from other species of poultry as defined in Regulation (EC) No 798/2008, can be imported for direct human consumption.

In relation to meat and meat products, imports will not be able to take place until the Russian Competent Authority has provided the Commission with a list of establishments that meet EU requirements. These will be published on the Commission's website when available.

Full details can be found on the Defra website including access to the accompanying OVS note 12/40 on the subject: <http://tinyurl.com/ar2cb7u>

## New Quality Schemes Regulation Published

Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs was published in the Official Journal of the EU, L343/1, on 14/12/2012.

The Regulation aims to help producers of agricultural products and foodstuffs to communicate the product characteristics and farming attributes to buyers and consumers, including protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications. Regulations (EC) No 509/2006 and (EC) No 510/2006 will be repealed and replaced by this Regulation. The scope for designations of origin and geographical indications is limited to products for which an intrinsic link exists between product or foodstuff characteristics and geographical origin; within the new Regulation protected designation of origin and the protected geographical indication are more clearly defined than they were previously.

A publicly available register will be created and those products that already have PDO, PGI, TSG indications will automatically transfer to the new register with their existing specification unchanged. The new Regulation applied from 25 December, though certain transition arrangements apply. For the full Regulation go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/ah2cpdk>

## Food Standards Agency Capability Review

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has recently carried out a Capability Review, part of a process that is designed to ensure that the Civil Service is delivering the best possible public services.

The review, available through the link below, recognised many things that, as an organisation, the Agency does well:

- there is recognition of the FSA's purpose of 'safer food for the nation' by the majority of our stakeholders
- the FSA has a highly skilled and professional workforce whose work is highly regarded domestically and internationally
- the Agency is recognised as a leading organisation in consumer engagement

The review also identifies areas for improvement which include:

- working more collaboratively to develop collective ownership of food and feed safety
- improving governance and ensuring the Board and the executive work effectively together
- responding quickly and proactively to changes in our external environment and having a better understanding of the challenges that our delivery partners are facing

The report includes an action plan to respond to these and the other areas for improvement identified by the review, regular updates on which will be provided. <http://tinyurl.com/bbelttx>

## Consumer Attitudes to GM Labelling

The Food Standards Agency has published the findings of research looking at consumer attitudes to the labelling of genetically modified (GM) food and the use of 'GM-free' labelling.

The key findings of the research, which can be found via the link below, are that consumer awareness of the current labelling requirements is low; participants were typically not seeking information or labelling with regard to GM foods. Only 2% of participants mentioned spontaneously that they looked for information about GM content when buying food products for the first time. Consumers did indicate a slight preference for labelling indicating the presence of GM, rather than labelling indicating the absence of GM and participants were generally unaware of the use of GM animal feed by farmers. Once made aware of its use, they typically considered that products from animals fed GM feed should be labelled, consistent with previous FSA research.

The Agency commissioned this research to inform discussions within Europe about GM labelling and to ensure the UK public's views were understood and represented. Defra Minister Owen Patteson has publically indicated his support for a fully informed public debate on GM.

For the Research go to: <http://tinyurl.com/bk82mxk>

## EFSA Consultation on the Safety of Aspartame

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has carried out a public consultation on the safety of Aspartame after studies in 2010 linked the sweetener to health conditions.

In May 2011 the European Commission asked the EU's food safety watchdog (EFSA) to conduct a full re-evaluation of Aspartame, after the publication of new scientific studies revealed its potential negative impact on pregnant women and an increased risk of cancer.

Italian oncologist Morando Soffritti published a much-debated study in 2010, which signalled an increased risk of liver and lung cancer in mice exposed to the chemical sweetener over the course of their lives ; an epidemiological study involving 60,000 pregnant women, carried out by Icelandic researcher Thorhallur Halldorsson the same year, made a link between intakes of artificially sweetened soft drinks and increased incidences of premature childbirth.

The Consultation closed on the 15 February, for more information visit the EFSA website through this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/a35gx2f>

## EFSA Set Population Energy Intake Reference Values

EFSA has set average requirements (ARs) for energy intake for adults, infants and children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. The ARs provide a best estimate of the energy needs of population groups within Europe and will help policymakers to develop and monitor nutrition programmes to promote public health including the establishment of food-based dietary guidelines.

EFSA's scientific advice on energy requirements is laid down in the latest of a series of scientific opinions on dietary reference values (DRVs). They have been produced by the Authority's Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies.

The average energy requirements of the specified age and sex groups were calculated to take account of different levels of physical activity, and are based on an assumed healthy body mass index of 22kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

The full article can be accessed on the EFSA website through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/a4utao8>

## EFSA Assessment of Microbial Risks from Non Meat Foods

EFSA has published the first scientific assessment in Europe on public health risks posed by pathogens that may contaminate food of non-animal origin. The scientific opinion compares the proportion of human cases reported in outbreaks of food-borne disease, from 2007 to 2011, related to food of non-animal origin with those associated with food of animal origin in Europe. EFSA experts also identified and ranked combinations of foods and pathogens most often linked to foodborne illness from foods of non-animal origin.

Foods of non-animal origin include a wide variety of fruit, vegetables, salads, seeds, nuts, cereals, herbs, and spices. They are an important part of our daily diet. According to the scientific opinion published today by the Panel on Biological Hazards, foods of animal origin continue to be the source of the majority of all documented and reported outbreaks (90%). However the number of outbreaks, human cases, and hospitalisations associated with food of non-animal origin has increased over this period. The full assessment is available through this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/al4nl7t>

## EUFIC Report on the Importance of Portion Information

The European Food Information Council (EUFIC) has published a review on the importance of portion information for consumers and dietary health.

The inclusion of nutrition information on food labels has a long regulatory history. As far back as 1990, the Directive 90/496/EEC devised new regulations governing the voluntary inclusion of nutrition information on pre-packed foods.<sup>3</sup> It was stated that nutrition information per 100 grams or 100 millilitres should be labelled, unless a nutrition or health claim was made on the package, in which case nutrition labelling became mandatory. In 2000, another EU Directive, 2000/13/EC, came into force to ensure that the consumer was provided with further information regarding a product's net quantity, composition (i.e. list of ingredients), manufacture and advice on storage and preparation.<sup>4</sup> Portion information on labels remained outside the scope of this legislation.

Faced with increasing concerns about rising obesity rates and obesity-related health problems, the European Commission in 2008 submitted the proposed 'Regulation on the Provision of Food Information to Consumers' to replace the previous two directives on food and nutrition labelling. The legislation specifies for the first time that nutrition information should be provided per portion as well as per 100g/100ml, alongside an indication of the serving size and the number of servings contained in the package.

Consequently, until recently, the importance of portion information has been overlooked. From a labelling perspective, the provision of portion information is not yet as common as nutrition information, and there is a lack of evidence about how portion information might be used or interpreted by consumers. This EUFIC article sets out to describe how European portion guidelines were established, before going on to describe the factors that may affect portion control and how these link with health. Relevant studies are reviewed and summarised. A further section looks at consumer understanding of portion control and considers the value of clear portion size information for children. For a full copy of the report go to: <http://tinyurl.com/byzhee8>

## Summary of Recent FSA Research

The Food Standards Agency has produced a summary of its research published in November and December 2012. It includes an evaluation of E coli cross-contamination guidance and a review of decision-making for authorised officers in local authorities. For the full reports go to: <http://tinyurl.com/a6kmmjg>

## FSA Review of Official Animal Feed Controls

At the March 2012 FSA Board meeting it was agreed that a review of the delivery of official animal feed controls would be carried out. The outcome of that review was presented to the November Board. The review team analysed key information and data, including reports from recent Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) and FSA local authority audits.

The Board acknowledged the significant delivery improvements that had been made following the original FVO audit in 2009 and agreed to a range of actions intended to build on those improvements by continuing to work more collaboratively with local authorities and industry stakeholders, including:

- Work closely with local authorities to further improve the coordination and information provision between authorities.
- Give greater recognition to the role of assurance schemes within the feed industry to reduce the burden of inspections and better target feed controls;
- Work with other government departments involved in different aspects of feed.
- Ensure local authorities have the appropriate technical knowledge and information by improving the existing FSA feed training programmes.

For full FSA board paper go to: <http://tinyurl.com/adxlsnk>

## **FSA Consultation on the Use of Aluminium Containing Additives**

The Foods Standards Agency has launched a consultation on the use of aluminium containing food additives. European Commission Regulation 380/2012, which came into force on 23rd May 2012, introduces restrictions on the use of aluminium-containing additives. The restrictions tighten the use of aluminium silicates (commonly used as anti-caking agents) and the use of aluminium lakes and restrict E541 Sodium Aluminium Phosphate SALP as a raising agent to one product only – namely sponge cakes produced from contrasting coloured segments, held together by jam or spreading jelly, encased in a flavoured sugar paste (i.e. Battenberg style cakes), at a level of 0.4 g/kg in the sponge parts only. No Member State, other than the UK, has food business operators who use SALP in their foods.

The purpose of the consultation is to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on an Impact Assessment prepared by the FSA to assess the costs associated with compliance with the changes outlined in the new legislation. The consultation closes on 5 April 2013.

More information on the consultation and details of how to respond can be found on the FSA website:

<http://tinyurl.com/awpfuhz>

## **Commission Register of National Guides to Good Hygiene Practice**

The European Commission has set up a register of National guides to good hygiene practise to make them available to Member States and food business operators. The hygiene regulations encourage the development, dissemination and use of both national and Community Guidance. These guides may be used on a voluntary basis by food business operators. EC have published a number of EU guides on their website to which they have now added the register on National guides. Access the register through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/azgbbn2>  
Access EU Guides through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/44kgqpu>

## **The Institute of Mechanical Engineers – Global Food Waste Report**

The Institute of Mechanical Engineers has published a report that estimates that up to 50% of the food produced globally is never consumed. Globally about four billion metric tonnes of food is produced per annum; yet due to poor practices in harvesting, storage and transportation, as well as market and consumer wastage, it is estimated that 1.2–2 billion tonnes of it never reaches a human stomach. Furthermore, this figure does not reflect the fact that large amounts of land, energy, fertilisers and water have also been lost in the production of foodstuffs which simply end up as waste. The report also says that there is the potential to provide 60-100 per cent more food by eliminating losses and waste while at the same time freeing up land, energy and water resources. The report breaks down the waste issues and makes recommendations according to whether countries are fully developed, late-stage developing nations and under developed / newly developing countries. The full report can be downloaded from: <http://tinyurl.com/bgucdr6>

## **Commission Consultation on Organic Controls**

The Commission have launched an online consultation to seek views on whether the current rules on organic production and certification should be strengthened. Question's cover subjects that include adventitious inclusion of GM; the removal of some production exemptions; animal welfare standards; as well as labelling requirements. A section on organic certification controls includes questions on group certification (sampling) and also asks whether it is acceptable to carry out reduced testing for routinely compliant businesses. The consultation runs until 15 April 2013 and will be used to inform a Commission review and regulatory proposal on the organic control framework planned for the end of 2013. The questionnaire can be accessed through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/b96m6tw>

## FoodDrinkEurope 2012 Competitiveness Report

FoodDrinkEurope the umbrella organisation for food and drink trade associations across Europe have recently published the 2012 Competitiveness report: Priorities for the development of an EU industrial Policy for food. The report measures the competitiveness of the EU food and drink industry using a set of key performance Indicators and is in three parts: part one of the report describes a first set of indicators which show that despite the current economic climate, the sector remains robust; part two assesses the industries global performance and shows that the EU lags behind its competitors in terms of worldwide competitiveness; part three explains some of the key reasons for this. Reasons identified include:

- The lack of an EU Industrial Policy for the food sector;
- The absence of a true Single Market for food
- Bottlenecks to R&D;
- Weak export expansion

For the full report follow this link: <http://tinyurl.com/avkkvob>

## New Registration with FDA for Exporters to the US

If British companies exporting food and drink to the United States have not already they need to quickly re-register with the US Government after it overhauled its licensing rules. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said that every foreign and domestic food company **must sign up again by 31 January 2013** otherwise they will temporarily lose access to the US market. The FDA will then require this re-registration every two years – with the next registration required in 2014. FDA guidance is available on the Defra website:

<http://tinyurl.com/7ohj29u>

## Defra Publishes Zoonoses Report 2011

Defra have published the annual report on zoonoses in the United Kingdom (UK)

The report includes a summary of reported cases of zoonotic infection in humans and animals during 2011. The report also includes feature articles which highlight human and animal incidents and issues of public health significance. There were significant trends in a number of human and animal infections, including Campylobacter, Salmonella, E coli VTEC, Lyme disease and cryptosporidiosis.

The data have been compiled from statutory notifiable or reportable disease reports, national scanning surveillance systems, control programmes, research programmes and from data submitted to the European Community via the Trends and Sources Report, under the Zoonoses Directive 2003/99 by agencies contributing to the Report.

This report is a collaborative publication produced by: the Health Protection Agency, Defra, the Food Standards Agency, the Department of Health, the Scottish and Welsh Governments, the Scottish Agricultural College, the Public Health Agency of Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern and Public Health Wales for the report go to: <http://tinyurl.com/b2uxeqw>

## Defra Feed and Food Statistics

Defra have recently published an updated version of the Food Statistics pocketbook for 2012: The pocket book contains statistics on food covering the economic, social and environmental aspects of food (excluding agriculture. It contains a mixture of National statistics, and both official and unofficial statistics (where there are gaps). The report includes chapters on: the food chain (global and UK); prices and expenditure; the environment; waste, safety and dietary health. Access the report through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/adbasrg>

Defra have also published on their website a joint report of all the agricultural departments of the UK the latest national statistics on GB Animal Feed the key information covers:

- Retail production of animal feeding stuffs in Great Britain
- Raw materials usage in animal feeding stuffs in Great Britain
- Analysis of retail production by company type
- Poultry feed production
- Average compound feed prices by main livestock categories

The latest statistics notice and datasets covering GB retail production of animal feedstuffs, integrated feed production and quarterly average prices for animal feedstuffs can be downloaded via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/bk23jtv> .

## Parliamentary Briefing Note and Policy on Retailing

Wholesale and retail trade contributed 11.3% of total Gross Value Added in the UK economy in 2011. The retail industry, however, is subject to a number of pressures. These include changes in shopping habits and the decline of consumer confidence. The number of VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises in retail and wholesale trade fell by 2.4% between March 2009 and March 2011. This briefing note, published as a house of common's library note, sets out a number of key statistics on the retail industry in the UK including the value of sales, the proportion of internet sales, and employment and business statistics for the retail industry. It then sets out Government policy aimed at supporting the industry. <http://tinyurl.com/bx9o67q>

## FSA Responds to Focus on Enforcement

The Government's Focus on Enforcement campaign asked small food manufacturers with up to fifty employees to report on their experiences of working with national regulators and local authorities in the first of a series of regulatory reviews examining the impact of regulation, as delivered by local and national enforcement bodies

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has now published a paper summarising the interim findings on this review which focused on the front-line experience of regulation by small businesses in food and drink manufacturing.

The paper is focused on the two main areas of enforcement delivered by local authorities: food hygiene (enforced by District Councils and Unitary Authorities), and composition and labelling (enforced by County Councils or Unitary Authorities).

Acting on the feedback received on food hygiene, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) will: allow businesses with a good record of compliance fewer inspections; improve training for enforcement officers; work with local authorities to improve consistency in the quality of enforcement; look at alternative appeals mechanisms and ensure that guidance for the food industry on food safety management is clear and concise, including that on e coli.

The review was aimed at micro and small food manufacturing businesses employing up to 50 employees. Issues in relation to the way in which the regulatory system is enforced identified by the review included the use of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) implementation by small businesses, and issues with HACCP as a legal requirement.

More information can be found on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website: <http://tinyurl.com/9w8ba2b> and <http://tinyurl.com/b6ghwp8>

## European Analysis Finds Improved Packaging Waste Recovery

A EUROOPEN analysis of official EU data on packaging waste shows that over the past twelve years the amount of used packaging sent for final disposal is declining rapidly.

“Higher recovery rates and particularly recycling rates are largely the reasons”, Virginia Janssens, acting Managing Director of EUROOPEN, stated on the announcement of the organization’s updated report on packaging waste data. “In 2010, just under 18.7 million tonnes of used packaging were sent for final disposal in the EU 27 member states. To put this into context, it has been estimated that 89 million tonnes of food were wasted in the EU 27 in 2006.”

The EUROOPEN analysis shows that growth in packaging waste is clearly decoupling from economic growth. Despite a 17.5% per capita increase in household consumption expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drinks between 2000 and 2010, an ageing population and a trend throughout Europe toward smaller households, all leading to the purchase of a greater number of packaged goods, the amount of non-wood packaging placed on the market in the original EU-15 member states rose by just 5.6% over the same period. To download the full analysis go to: <http://tinyurl.com/aez75lx>

## GM Report – Science Not Fiction

EuropaBio have published a report to reopen the European GM debate.

Over the past decade, Europe has seen polarised coverage of GM science, overwhelmingly focused on a small number of un-reviewed reports claiming negative effects of the technology. Scientists, leaders and farmers from around the world have become increasingly vocal in calling for a rational, fact-based debate on crop technologies using the scientific data experience available.

Most of the time, we are facing the politics of fear and consumer group claims about the possible 'disastrous' effects of growing GM crops, none of which are based on scientific facts. Whilst globally, the use and research into the technology has been widespread.

We know that European farmers need to be able to compete in the global market and that sustainability and food security in the food supply chain are key issues; GM technology is a tool that needs to be rationally assessed.

This guide aims to look at the reality of crop science, explode some of the myths around GM and recognise the growing support from high-profile development and sustainability organisations; from the WHO to the Gates Foundation. To access the full report “Time to think again about GM” go to: <http://tinyurl.com/b8nsuat>

## FAO, UNEP Launch: Think, Eat, Save

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other partners, including WRAP and national governments have launched a global campaign to change the culture of food waste and reduce the estimated 1.3 Billion Tons of Food (about one-third of all food produced) wasted or lost each year, stating that consumers, the food industry and government all have a role to play to help shape a sustainable future.

The **Think.Eat.Save. Reduce Your Foodprint** campaign is in support of the SAVE FOOD Initiative to reduce food loss and waste along the entire chain of food production and consumption – run by the FAO and trade fair organizer Messe Düsseldorf – and the UN Secretary General’s Zero Hunger Initiatives. The new campaign specifically targets food wasted by consumers, retailers and the hospitality industry. The campaign harnesses the expertise of organizations such as WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), Feeding the 5,000 and other partners, including national governments, who have considerable experience targeting and changing wasteful practices.

The initiative provides advice for specific business sectors such as retailers and foodservice and supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, companies, cities and countries will be able to use the website to pledge to measure the food they waste and put in place targets to reduce it. Full information on the initiative can be found on the website: [www.thinkeatsave.org](http://www.thinkeatsave.org) visit also the WRAP website: <http://tinyurl.com/acfbocn>

## Grocery Code Adjudicator Appointed

Consumer and Competition Minister Jo Swinson has announced the appointment of former Co-operative farms managing director Christine Tacon to the newly created role as the independent Groceries Code Adjudicator. In her new role Ms Tacon will be responsible for enforcing the Groceries Supply Code of Practice, which regulates interactions between the ten largest supermarkets with an annual turnover of £1bn and their direct suppliers.

In addition, the Adjudicator will have the power to launch investigations into suspected breaches of the Code, including those arising from confidential complaints from any source. If she finds evidence of a breach, the Adjudicator will be able to make recommendations against a supermarket, require them to publish details of their breach, or, in the most extreme cases, to impose fines. She will also have the power to arbitrate disputes between large supermarkets and their direct suppliers.

The Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill, which will formally create the office of the Adjudicator, is currently before Parliament. Christine Tacon will act as Adjudicator-Designate until the office of the Adjudicator is established by law, when she will formally take up the four year appointment.

Ministers have also agreed that she will appear before the BIS Select Committee for a pre-appointment hearing. To read the full announcement, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/a8wl7ra>

## BfR Recommendations for Protection Against Yersinia

The German Institute for Risk Assessment BfR have published a report and recommendations on how consumers can protect themselves against Yersinia infection. They recommend to Consumers to protect themselves from the infection often carried by pigs and wild animals, by adhering to the rules of kitchen hygiene during food preparation: you should heat meat to 70 °C for at least two minutes and avoid spreading bacteria from raw meat to other foods.

A summary report can be found at this link as well as access to the full study in German:  
<http://tinyurl.com/al64fb8>

## Fishing Focus Newsletter

Fishing Focus is a joint newsletter published by Defra and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to keep stakeholders informed about their work. The latest issue updates on: the results of fisheries negotiations, shellfish stock assessments; the appointment of Elaine Hayes as Chairman of sea fish and news from the MMO on catch quota trials, marine plans, European Fisheries Fund projects and funding for fisheries research. Access the newsletter through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/bjjly4x>

## Sustain Report Recommends Levy on Sugary Drinks

60 organisations are backing the recommendations in a new report launched at the end January, that calls for the 2013 Budget to implement a sugary drinks duty. The report, 'A Children's Future Fund – How food duties could provide the money to protect children's health and the world they grow up in' is published by Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming.

It proposes that the money raised from a duty on sugary drinks should be ring-fenced for a 'Children's Future Fund' to spend on programmes to improve children's health and future well-being.

Pointing to the high levels of diet-related illness which costs the NHS £6 billion every year, the report makes three recommendations for Budget 2013to:

- Introduce a sugary drinks duty for the UK which, for example at 20p per litre, would raise around £1 billion a year;
- Ring-fence the majority of money raised from a sugary drinks duty for a Children's Future Fund, which could be spent on improving children's health by, for example, providing free school meals, or sustainably produced fruit and vegetable snacks in schools; and
- Give an independent body the responsibility to oversee how the sugary drinks duty is implemented and make sure the revenue is spent effectively.

The report also recommends, in the longer-term, that our VAT system is revised to reflect the healthiness of food and drinks and that unsustainable foods should also carry a levy. Access the full report through this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/a6cet5v>

## Government Reform on Anti-competitive Practises

Government proposals announced will make it easier for groups of consumers and companies to take action against anti-competitive businesses. The proposals are in response to a public consultation that took place in July 2012: Private actions in competition law: a consultation on options for reform

Groups of consumers and companies should find it easier to take collective legal action against businesses acting in an anti-competitive way under the new proposals published in January. Included in the measures is a new fast-track regime that will help small businesses fight anti-competitive practices that the Government believes stifle growth.

Currently, individuals or other businesses that have been harmed as a result of anti-competitive practises have to go through a difficult and costly court process to seek remedies. The changes published today will make it easier for consumers or businesses when they do have a dispute, making sure that the problem is resolved quickly and fairly.

The full government response can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/a79fyq7>

## HMRC Updates Export Advice

HM Revenue and Customs have issued Customs Notice 275 updating information on Export Procedures The Notice cancels and replaces the previous version published in July 2012 and incorporates Notice 502.

The changes relate to the low value threshold being reduced from £900 to £800 on 1 January 2013, and; a CHIEF change has accommodated the full ARC number for excise goods.

The Notice provides general information on Customs requirements for UK Export procedures and processes and is meant to be a helpful guide to the UK National Export System. Access the notice through this link

<http://tinyurl.com/c95c7ur>

You may need to refer to other Notices issued by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on Customs, VAT, Excise and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) processes depending on the type of goods and Customs Procedure Code being used for your export. The Link below takes you to a web page listing all HMRC Notices for importing and exporting. <http://tinyurl.com/abujyh>

## **BIS: Can Trade Improve Food Security?**

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has published the latest in a series of Trade and Investment Analytical Papers. This paper entitled: Can Trade Improve Food Security, explores why food security matters, how trade can contribute to food security, and how governments can help trade achieve its potential to increase food security.

It concludes that both domestic and international trade's greatest contribution to food security is by helping to raise incomes, increasing the ability of households to purchase food. Trade also helps by balancing supply and demand, and encouraging greater productivity. Trade also stabilises prices, particularly when trade barriers do not distort markets. Trade policy is just one tool of many that can help increase food security. For full details go to <http://tinyurl.com/bzcck6s>

## **BEUC Consumer Survey on Origin Indications**

European consumer organisation BEUC, have recently published a report on the demand, by consumers, for origin information on food labels. According to the report origin is one of the key criteria for consumers when buying food. The report presents the results of a survey on origin labelling presented in Brussels by BEUC. Conducted in Sweden, France, Poland and Austria, the representative survey polled consumers about their expectations for origin labelling on food.

Confirming EU-wide Eurobarometer data and BEUC member research, on average 70% of respondents say that origin is an important factor when buying food. The survey findings also reveal that a clear majority of shoppers want to know the specific country their food comes from. Only about 10% of people polled indicated to prefer the indication EU or non-EU. 6 out of 10 respondents also want to know both the country where a processed food's primary ingredient was farmed or harvested and the country where the food itself was manufactured. Such demands would prevent practices like labelling sausages as "British" when the pork comes from Denmark. For the full report go to: <http://tinyurl.com/apbzbv57>

## **FSA 2013 Research Plan**

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has published its Forward Evidence Plan for 2013. The plan outlines priority science and evidence activities for the coming year, including potential areas for research funding and workshops that will help develop the Agency's evidence base. Proposed activities include:

- microbiological food safety, including campylobacter, E.coli, listeria and norovirus
- a range of issues related to food and feed hygiene policy
- chemical safety of food, including metals and organic contaminants
- the next round of the FSA strategic challenge call
- diet and health related work funded by the FSA in Scotland and Northern Ireland

The full plan can be accessed on the FSA website: <http://tinyurl.com/cdlcata>

## **EU Approves Use of Lactic Acid for Beef Carcasses**

The EU has authorised the use of lactic acid for decontamination of bovine carcasses from 25 February 2013, based on a European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) positive opinion on its safety and efficacy delivered in July 2011. The decision can be found in Commission Regulation (EU) No 101/2013 of 4 February 2013 concerning the use of lactic acid to reduce microbiological surface contamination on bovine carcasses. Access the Regulation through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/b5rysel>

## FoodDrinkEurope Allergen Management Guide

FoodDrinkEurope has launched a Guide on Food Allergen Management for food manufacturers. This they claim is the first Guidance of its kind, and sets out general principles to manage specific pre-prepacked foods causing allergy or certain intolerances and provides sound, evidence-based and consistent information on good practice in risk management of allergenic foods for producers. Scientific understanding of the risk from food allergens has grown over the last 20 years and the guide sets out to help food companies to develop a consistent understanding of the risk from allergenic foods and to fulfil their responsibility to establish a food safety management system which is compliant with legal requirements.

The guide establishes general guiding principles that can be readily adapted to different product process and production facility designs to provide information about food allergy and food allergens and to indicate their importance as food safety hazards. To download the guide, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/awnjrza>

## DNA Barcoding Tool for Food Traceability

In a review published in Food Research International, researchers at University of Milan and University of Trieste analysed the findings from several studies to exploit the effectiveness of DNA barcoding as a tool for food traceability. The review also considered other applications such as quality control and detection of commercial fraud.

DNA barcoding is a molecular based system, which allows scientists to identify particular species, by comparing short genetic markers in the specimen DNA with reference sequences. Its success depends on: i) the molecular variability between species and ii) the availability of high quality reference sequences (i.e. DNA sequences of known species). An example of the latter is the Barcode of Life Database (BOLD). This is coordinated by the International Barcode of Life Project and is a repository which supports the collection of reference sequences, with the aim of creating a reference library for all living species. The full review is available to view and purchase through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/ad934x4>

## Consumer Attitudes to GM Labelling

The FSA in Wales is conducting a short consultation on the harmonisation of 'GM-free' labelling, following the European Commission's launch of a review of the current situation in the EU. Some European countries have introduced national schemes that promote the consistent use of claims for food that has been produced without the use of GM technology. These national schemes vary in terms of the criteria that must be met in order to make GM-free claims. The European Commission is considering whether it is necessary to develop a single EU-wide scheme for this type of labelling.

FSA Wales is considering how best to meet the needs of UK consumers and following the publication of FSA funded research on public attitudes to GM-free labelling are seeking additional evidence on views on GM Labelling. To find out more about the consultation go to: <http://tinyurl.com/apc7aud>

## NICE Business Case for Physical Activity in the Workplace

A business case been produced by NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) to support the implementation of the public health responsibility deal pledge - workplace physical activity. Nice recognize that a healthy, committed workforce is vital to business success. However, only a minority of businesses in the UK effectively promote health and wellbeing at work. Evidence suggests that ongoing support and 'buy-in' from the senior management team is essential; if such schemes are to be successful they have to be high up the business agenda.

The business case can be adapted by organisations to reflect local circumstances and help calculate the potential benefits and costs of developing a workplace physical activity scheme. To download the guide go to: <http://tinyurl.com/afnp3s3>

## European Retail Action Plan and Green Paper on Unfair Retail Practises

On 31 January 2013 the Commission adopted a “Communication setting up a European Retail Action Plan”. This Communication proposes actions to achieve a single market in retail by addressing the key obstacles that hinder the smooth functioning of this sector. It will enhance the economic, environmental and social performance of the retail sector and ensure that it fully contributes to the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy. As part of this Action Plan, the Commission is also adopting a Green Paper on unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food and non-food supply chain in Europe.

Unfair trading practices in the food and non-food supply chain have a detrimental effect on the whole EU economy as they affect companies’ (especially SMEs’) ability to invest and innovate. This Green Paper makes an initial assessment of the problems posed by unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships along the retail supply chain, including the lack of efficient enforcement of existing national rules and the resulting impact on the Single Market.

The objective of the Green Paper is to launch a consultation with stakeholders on this analysis and to identify possible next steps in addressing the problem. All interested parties are invited to submit their views in response to the questions contained in this Green Paper. Contributions should be sent by 30.04.2013 at the latest.

For more detailed information follow the link to the European Commission Webpage on Retail:

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/retail/index\\_en.htm#maincontentSec2](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/retail/index_en.htm#maincontentSec2)

## Fibre Analysis – EC Guidance Published

The European Commission has published a Guidance Document on Fibre Methods of Analysis for determination of the fibre content declared on a label, for compliance with Council Directive 90/496/EEC of 24 September 1990 on nutrition labelling of foodstuffs and Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers. The document provides guidance to Member States' control authorities and food business operators on the methods of analysis for determination of the fibre content declared on a label with respect to the nutrition labelling. Access the guide through this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/aawgz4y>

## Date of Freezing Amendments Put on Hold

The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) meeting on Biological Safety of the Food Chain, held on 12 December 2012, discussed amongst other items an amendment to Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the requirements concerning frozen food of animal origin. Since 1 July 2012, it has been obligatory to make the production and freezing dates of all frozen food of animal origin available to the food business operator to whom it is supplied (Regulation 16/2012 amending Regulation 853/2004). Several Member States and stakeholders’ organisations including BFFF have pointed to practical difficulties in fulfilling this obligation, in particular for certain frozen fish-based products.

The proposed amendment addressed the difficulties but also attempted to make a direct link of the date of freezing in the supply chain with the date of freezing requirements for meat, meat preparations and fishery products in the Food Information to Consumers Regulation 1169/2011.

No vote was taken on the amendment in the SCoFCAH meeting; the Commission said the discussion would be postponed until the finalisation of the ongoing procedure regarding Regulation on a Common Organisation of the Market for Fishery and Aquaculture Products, currently under discussion with the European Parliament and the Council.

## FAQ's Published on Veterinary Border Controls

The European Commission have introduced a webpage of Frequently Asked Questions relating to veterinary Border controls. The webpage covers issues including products for human and animal consumption; live animals, certification and official controls. Access the Q&A through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/aenxwcx>

## Use of Processed Animal Protein in Fish Feed

A Commission Regulation (56/2013) to re-authorise the use of processed animal proteins (PAPs) derived from non-ruminant farmed animals (i.e. mainly from pigs and poultry) in fish feed entered into force on 24 January. Such use was prohibited twelve years ago when the total feed ban was introduced in 2001 to tackle the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic. Endorsed by Member State experts in the Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFAH) in July 2012, this measure will allow farmed fish and other aquaculture animals, to once again be fed with non-ruminant PAPs. The re-authorisation will apply from 1 June 2013 and is intended to improve the overall sustainability of the aquaculture sector, since these PAPs could be a valuable substitute for fishmeal, which is a scarce resource. The measure is a first step as the Commission, subject to specific analytical tests, intends to propose a further measure to re-introduce the use of pig and poultry PAPs for poultry and pigs. The Commission has however no intention to propose the re-authorisation of PAPs for feeding ruminant animals (i.e. cattle, sheep or goats) or to propose to re-use PAPs from ruminants for feeding non-ruminant farmed animals. In the ScoFAH vote on the subject the UK representative abstained citing lack consumer acceptance and the ability to monitor compliance. Find the new regulation which amends the annexes to Reg 999/2001 here: <http://tinyurl.com/b9ghkvj>

## Defra Consults on Waste Quality Action Plan

Defra announced a consultation on 1 February 2013 on a Quality Action Plan on improving the quality of "dry" recyclates (i.e. paper, glass, metal and plastic).

The waste streams it is addressing are household and commercial waste. The Quality Action Plan sets out measures aimed to support recycling of high quality waste materials and delivering recyclates of sufficient quality to meet the standards of the relevant recycling sectors; specifically Defra want:

- relationships and transactions between the different actors in the supply chain to be based upon and informed by robust, consistent and transparent information on quality and end destination. This information flow will improve confidence and participation in recycling, and resilience in the recycle market;
- existing best practices, in terms of managing quality and contracts, to be recognised, celebrated and become more widespread throughout the supply chain;
- to make things as easy as possible for residents and businesses to improve the quantity and quality of the materials they put out for recycling;
- to be confident that exports are recycled achieving the same environmental benefits as recycling domestically;
- high quality recycling to be properly incentivised;
- to make down-cycling the least attractive recycling option and only to take place as a last resort; and
- for co-mingled collections and outputs from Materials Recovery Facilities in particular, the quality of recycle to be transparent and meet the necessary standards for the relevant recycling sectors.

Follow the link to the Defra website to download the report and consultation details: <http://tinyurl.com/ahunvby>

## Northern Ireland Consultation on Mandatory FHRS

The Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland has launched a consultation to assess the impact of making the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme mandatory in Northern Ireland.

The consultation comes as all district councils agree to operate the scheme in Northern Ireland. It's considered that a statutory approach would increase the scheme's potential to improve public health by providing consumers with more information about where they eat or buy food.

Work is already under way in Wales to make the scheme statutory with the introduction of the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill, which will come into force later this year.

For more information on the consultation follow this link <http://tinyurl.com/ar3y4ug>

## EC Guidance for Tolerances on Nutrition Labelling

The European Commission has published guidance on nutrition tolerances to support the mandatory labelling of nutrition information for most foods being introduced by the Food Information to Consumers Regulation (FIC).

The three documents published on its website are:

- A Guidance document for the control of compliance with regard to setting tolerances for nutrient values declared on a label
- A summary table of nutrient tolerances
- A guidance document for the control of compliance with regard to methods of analysis for the determination of the fibre content declared on a label.

The documents be downloaded direct from the European Commission website: <http://tinyurl.com/b4okbg5>

In the guidance the Commission recommends that a pragmatic and proportionate approach should be followed for the adaptation of enforcement controls to meet the new tolerances, especially where Member States already have national tolerances in place. A transition period up to, but no later than 13 December 2014 is given by the Commission in order to comply; this date of course being the date whereby if nutrition information is given voluntarily it must comply with the requirements of the FIC.

## Defra Consultation on Flour Fortification

Defra has launched a consultation inviting views on the Bread and Flour Regulations 1998 and the continued need for mandatory fortification of flour in England with calcium, iron, niacin and thiamin. As part of the Red Tape Challenge Defra is reviewing these national rules and has issued a public consultation on a number of possible options, including removing the mandatory need to fortify flour or reducing the number of substances that flour must be fortified with.

All wheat flour (except wholemeal) produced in the UK is currently subject to national legislation which requires calcium, iron, niacin and thiamin to be added at certain specified levels. In the case of calcium this is for fortification purposes while in the case of iron, niacin and thiamin this is to replace what is lost during the milling process.

The consultation opened on 16 January and will run for 8 weeks, closing on 13 March 2013. The consultation applies to England only. For more information go to: <http://tinyurl.com/berf6dt>

## Changes to the Generalised System of Preferences

Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences was published on 25 October. The new regulation replaced the current Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and changes the qualifying basis for GSP to preclude high-income or upper-middle income countries based on their gross national income per capita; as a result it will reduce the list of countries able to benefit from preferential import tariff duties for defined categories of export.

Most countries affected by the changes have either agreed or are engaged in negotiations to establish trade agreements replacing the beneficial tariffs provided by GSP. It was known that Thailand was due to lose its GSP status by January 1 2015 this raised concerns because at the time Thailand had not indicated that it would engage with the EU on trade negotiations.

The progress of such talks, indicated as starting soon, becomes more urgent in the light of a further implementing regulation published immediately before Christmas. The new Regulation will accelerate the graduation of several countries from the scheme earlier, for some specific product sectors: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1213/2012 of 17 December 2012 suspending the tariff preferences for certain GSP beneficiary countries in respect of certain GSP sections in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences.

The two Regulations can be accessed through these links: <http://tinyurl.com/bgnt66w> and <http://tinyurl.com/ab8s73o>

## Links to Other Information

Lots of other information not covered by the T&L Update is available through the links below:

1. Tyne Tees and Newcastle University Research, comparative nutrition study between supermarket and celebrity chef meals published in the British Medical Journal <http://www.bmj.com/content/345/bmj.e7607>
2. Defra Customer Information note CIN no 1275 on changes to import requirements of certain meat and poultry products from Russia and Argentina <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/2012/cin-1275-animal-products-from-russia/>
3. OVS Note 12/40 on Animal Products from Russia <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/2012/ovs-note-1240-animal-products-from-russia/>
4. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1162/2012 of 7 December 2012 amending Decision 2007/777/EC and Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entries for Russia in the lists of third countries from which certain meat, meat products and eggs may be introduced into the Union <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:336:0017:0021:EN:PDF>
5. Commission Implementing Decision of 6 December 2012 amending Decision 2009/821/EC as regards the lists of border inspection posts and veterinary units in Traces <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:336:0094:0100:EN:PDF>
6. Commission Regulation (EU) No 1183/2012 of 30 November 2012 amending and correcting Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:338:0011:0015:EN:PDF>
7. Corrigendum to Commission Regulation (EU) No 1183/2012 of 30 November 2012 amending and correcting Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food was published in the Official Journal of the EU <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:349:0077:0077:EN:PDF>
8. FDF 5 fold environmental ambitions report – progress update 2012 [http://www.fdf.org.uk/environment\\_progress\\_report.aspx](http://www.fdf.org.uk/environment_progress_report.aspx)
9. Commission Regulation (EU) No 1190/2012 of 12 December 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in flocks of turkeys, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council, was published in the Official Journal of the EU <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:340:0029:0034:EN:PDF>
10. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1235/2012 of 19 December 2012 amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of

the Council as regards the increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:350:0044:0050:EN:PDF>

11. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1239/2012 of 19 December 2012 amending Regulation (EC) No 543/2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards the marketing standards for poultrymeat <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:350:0063:0066:EN:PDF>
12. Council Decision of 6 December 2012 on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Brazil pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions with respect to processed poultry meat provided for in the EU Schedule annexed to GATT 1994, and of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Thailand pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions with respect to processed poultry meat provided for in the EU Schedule annexed to GATT 1994 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:351:0047:0047:EN:PDF>
13. Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Brazil pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions with respect to processed poultry meat provided for in the EU Schedule annexed to GATT 1994 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:351:0048:0051:EN:PDF>
14. Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Thailand pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions with respect to processed poultry meat provided for in the EU Schedule annexed to GATT 1994 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:351:0052:0055:EN:PDF>
15. Advisory Committee on Packaging ACP 2012 Annual Report <http://npwd.environment-agency.gov.uk/>
16. FSA e news December and January <http://food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/publication/fsaenewsD12J13.pdf>
17. UK statistic on TB incidence in cattle <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuslivestock/cattletb/national/>
18. German Institute of risk assessment BfR Questions and answers on ESBL and AmpC-producing antimicrobial resistant bacteria [http://www.bfr.bund.de/en/questions\\_and\\_answers\\_on\\_esbl\\_and\\_ampc\\_producing\\_antimicrobial\\_resistant\\_bacteria-132522.html](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en/questions_and_answers_on_esbl_and_ampc_producing_antimicrobial_resistant_bacteria-132522.html)
19. House of Commons library note on retailing statistics <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN06186.pdf>
20. Bondpearce article on ensuring secure supply chain following the beefburger incidence <http://www.bondpearce.com/publication/are-you-sure-what-you-are-supplying?intEmailHistoryId=102530&intEmailListId=68&intEmailId=14045&intExternalSystemId=1>
21. Updated EU List of national guidance on food hygiene [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/hygienelegislation/register\\_national\\_guides\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/hygienelegislation/register_national_guides_en.pdf)
22. Government plans through BIS to update and simplify consumer protection legislation <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/providing-better-information-and-protection-for-consumers>
23. Why should I be concerned about the F Gas regulations [http://www.epeeglobal.org/epeedocs/internet/docs/EPEE\\_-\\_fgas\\_-\\_Why\\_should\\_I\\_care\\_7160.pdf](http://www.epeeglobal.org/epeedocs/internet/docs/EPEE_-_fgas_-_Why_should_I_care_7160.pdf)
24. The European Organisation for packaging and the environment (Euopen) packaging and packaging waste statistics 1998 – 2010 <http://www.euopen.be/euopen/files/File//Key%20Topics/Packaging%20and%20Packaging%20Waste%20Statistics%201998-2010.pdf>
25. Commission Regulation (EU) No 51/2013 of 16 January 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 as regards the methods of analysis for the determination of constituents of animal origin for the official control of feed <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:020:0033:0043:EN:PDF>
26. Department for business innovation and skills publishes results and implementation plan for the Red Tape challenge Manufacturing review theme [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/49839/13-561-red-tape-challenge-update-implementation-plan-for-manufacturing-theme.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/49839/13-561-red-tape-challenge-update-implementation-plan-for-manufacturing-theme.pdf)

27. BIS red tape challenge update on the Retail theme:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/49840/13-560-red-tape-challenge-update-implementation-plan-for-retail-theme.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/49840/13-560-red-tape-challenge-update-implementation-plan-for-retail-theme.pdf)
28. Commission Regulation (EU) No 51/2013 of 16 January 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 as regards the methods of analysis for the determination of constituents of animal origin for the official control of feed <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:020:0033:0043:EN:PDF>
29. Commission Implementing Decision of 24 January 2013 adopting guidelines for the implementation of specific conditions for health claims laid down in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:022:0025:0028:EN:PDF>
30. Commission Regulation (EU) No 68/2013 of 16 January 2013 on the Catalogue of feed materials <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:029:0001:0064:EN:PDF>
31. List of over 600 peer reviewed research studies into Genetic Modification:  
<http://www.biofortified.org/genera/studies-for-genera/>
32. WWF new report Putting EU on track for 100% renewable energy :  
[http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/res\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/res_report_final.pdf)
33. Commission Directive 2013/2/EU of 7 February 2013 amending Annex I to Directive 94/62/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:037:0010:0012:EN:PDF>
34. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 125/2013 of 13 February 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:043:0001:0023:EN:PDF>
35. Commission Regulation (EU) No 126/2013 of 13 February 2013 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:043:0024:0027:EN:PDF>
36. Government response to FOP nutrition labelling consultation <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/01/food-labelling/>

---

Members of the British Frozen Food Federation requiring further information about any item in this newsletter should contact Su Dakin, Technical Manager  
Warwick House Tel: 01400 283090 / 283094 (dir.) Fax: 01400 283098  
Registered Office: Warwick House, Unit 7, Long Bennington Business Park, Main Road, Long Bennington, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 5JR A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 7687541 VAT Reg. No. GB 115 5466 23