



# **Alternative Enforcement Strategy for low risk food premises**

## **Frequently asked questions**

**No more inspections for low  
risk businesses**

June 2011

**Reigate & Banstead**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate



## Introduction

Until recently the Council has been obliged to inspect each and every food business as part of its food safety programme. The frequency of visits made to food businesses is currently determined through a process of risk assessment.

At the end of your inspection, a score is given to determine the frequency at which your business is inspected. Businesses scoring less than 31 points are regarded as "low risk" and as such may not receive a visit by an officer. Instead they are sent a self-assessment questionnaire to obtain the information we need. **The information provided may mean that an inspection visit is not required.**

If your business is selected please complete the questionnaire as fully as possible and return it in the enclosed reply paid envelope.

**Failure to do so will automatically result in an inspection visit.**

Food includes bottles/tins of drink, alcohol, crisps, sweets, etc.

A food business is any undertaking the selling or handling of food, whether or not it is wrapped and regardless of whether it is being done for charity, or is seasonal, etc.

## Businesses likely to be low risk

- Chemists selling sweets, baby food, slimming products, etc.
- Public houses that only sell drinks and confectionary
- Newsagents that only sell low risk foods - sweets and wrapped food items
- Off-licences
- Video shops that sell sweets
- Sports and Social Clubs that only sell drinks and confectionary
- Guest Houses providing less than twenty meals a day
- Village/Church halls where only occasional catering takes place
- Residential care homes providing less than twenty meals a day

## Frequently asked questions

### Am I considered to be low risk if:

- I provide meals a few times a year? Yes.
- I provide food (i.e. cakes, jams, etc.) to a market stall once a year? Yes.
- I only sell drinks? Yes, drinks are food according to the law.

**We are not a business as I am a secretary of a private members club, do I have to fill in the questionnaire?**

Yes - the definition of a food business includes clubs as they will handle food. Remember drinks are classed as food under law.

**We are a residential care home. Do we have to comply with the food legislation?**

You will need to comply if you sell or handle food as part of your business.

**My business has changed and I am now providing 25 hot meals per day do I have to return the questionnaire?**

You must phone the officer that sent the questionnaire to let them know there has been a change in your business as a full inspection will be needed.

This arrangement will hopefully be more convenient to both you and us. We will of course, continue to assist you comply with the law by providing appropriate advice and guidance through our twice yearly newsletter.

A copy of the questionnaires can be downloaded from our website: [http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/public/Environment/EH/Food/Business\\_Advice/](http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/public/Environment/EH/Food/Business_Advice/).

Remember to keep us informed of any major changes to your business.