



FOOD REGULATION CHANGES

UK HOSPITALITY & LEISURE PRACTICE

MAY 2015

On the 13th December 2014 a new Food Information Regulations (EU1169/2011) law was brought in by the Foods Standards Agency (FSA) in conjunction with DEFRA for all companies that serve unpackaged food. This Law states that all allergy information must be provided for foods that contain the 'EU Top 14 Allergens, which are identified as follows:

- Gluten
- Crustaceans
- Eggs
- Celery
- Milk
- Sulphites
- Molluscs
- Fish
- Soya
- Sesame
- Mustard
- Peanuts
- Treenuts
- Lupin

Whether you serve unpackaged food, or packaged food for immediate consumption, it has become mandatory that all allergy information must be provided and failure to do so could have an impact on both Employers and Public Liability Insurance.



Who is affected?

If you own or work in any of the following then this ruling is applicable to you:

Restaurants, Bistro's, Pubs and Gastro pubs, Wine bars, Brasseries, Coffee Shops, Cafés, Catering, Fast food, Retail stores with cafes, Banqueting and conference facilities, Leisure attractions such as theme parks, Leisure clubs – Museums – Cinema – Theatre, Motorway services, Welfare Catering such as Schools – Colleges – Universities – Hospitals and Old people's homes, The Army, Navy and Airforce, Transport Catering (within EU member states) including Planes, Boats and Railways Event catering or Outdoor events such as festivals.

Important Aspects of the Law:

- You can no longer state that you don't know if an allergen is present
- You can no longer state that all foods "could" contain allergens
- Oral statements have to be backed up in writing if required
- Your local Environment Health Officers will enforce the regulations, non-compliance will result in large fines

What Are The Risks?

Without food labelling, or the right advice being provided to customers, there is a severe danger of a person eating one of the 14 allergens. People with food allergies have to be extremely careful about what they eat. There can be serious consequences for customers eating food they are allergic to.

Failure to adhere to the new rules set out in the Food Information Regulations (EU1169/2011) could result in you being held liable if a customer was to suffer a loss or injury as a direct result.

What are your Responsibilities?

As owners or operators of the noted trades, the new legislation introduces the requirements to ensure all customers are made aware of the dishes that contain the noted EU Top 14 Allergens. A list of these allergens must be displayed in a prominent place within the establishment or noted on the individual menu's. Customers will then be prompted to enquire with your staff about the dishes they order/purchase. Your staff should also be trained in these areas as verbally informing customers of the 14 allergens is sufficient, however if a customer asks for this to be provided in writing, then this information should be freely available.

Introduction of this new law will not affect insurances that have already been purchased. Therefore, there is not a requirement for additional coverage to be taken out by your business. You will notice that in future, whether renewing insurance with your current provider or taking out new coverage, you will be asked questions to ensure that you comply with the requirements of this new law.

The introduction of this new law will also increase the need for training of staff in food handling. Cross contamination is one of the sectors major issues. All food must be stored in a way that one ingredient cannot directly affect another and kitchen staff especially will have to ensure that hands are washed regularly after handling each individual dish. Checks must also be performed on your suppliers. As always, it is imperative that all training is well documented and kept up to date.

For more information please contact your existing account executive, or alternative call the UK Hospitality Team on 0207 5603960.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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