



Food and Animal Feed Sampling Policy

Purpose

- To outline our general approach to the sampling of food intended for human consumption and feed of non animal origin intended for consumption by animals. Pet foods are also included.
- To ensure that our obligations under the Framework Agreement on Official Food and Feed controls by Local Authorities are met.

Responsibility

The Group Manager for Trading Standards has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is adhered to.

Background

The Authority is required to appoint a Public Analyst who possesses prescribed qualifications so that samples can be analysed or examined under the appropriate legislation. Officers who take samples must be suitably qualified and authorised under the legislation (Food Safety Act 1990 & Agriculture Act 1970) that they are enforcing.

Samples of food may include food ingredients, food contact materials, packaged and unpackaged foods, drinks (including alcohol) and food from catering establishments.

Samples of feed may include feed materials, complementary and complete non medicated feeds for livestock and pet foods.

Samples may be checked for adulteration, fraud, contamination, authenticity, misleading presentation/labelling, product specific standards, fitness and quality.

Our Policy

- All samples will be procured in accordance with the relevant Codes of Practice and regulations made under the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Agriculture Act 1970.
- Sampling is intelligence led based on information from a variety of sources including consumer complaints, referrals from other agencies (including feed and food incident warnings) and on individual officer's discretion in the field. Samples may also be sourced from a food or feed which is owned by a consumer.
- Sampling will seek to accommodate national and regional objectives and priorities.
- All samples must be handled in accordance with relevant Trading Standards Service documented procedures.
- Samples can be informal (i.e. for information only) or formal (enforcement action may follow). Feed materials may also be sampled upon request and a fee can be charged as per Section 75(4) of the Agriculture Act 1970.
- All records relevant to the sample will be stored for a minimum of six years.
- The policy will subject to annual review to take into account any relevant changes.

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