



What might a “Brexit” mean for food control?

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Considerations

- Legislation as a basis for food control
 - Imports, exports and domestic controls
 - Making changes to EU legislation
 - General Brexit effects on food control?
 - Brexit effects on domestic food control?
 - Future food control?
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Food safety legislation in the UK

The legal basis

- European legislation – agreed in Brussels by 28 Member States
- Sets the hygiene and safety standards
- Mainly for business but requirements for regulatory checks (Official controls)

EU food safety and hygiene regulations

Main regulations

- General food law (EC 178/2002)
- Hygiene of foodstuffs (EC 852/2004)
- Hygiene for food of animal origin (EC 853/2004)
- Official controls on products of animal origin (EC 854/2004)
- Official controls on feed and food (EC 882/2004)*
- Microbiological criteria for foodstuffs (EC 2073/2005)

* Under review

Imports, exports & domestic controls

- Food moves “freely” across EU single trade area
 - Strict controls for “3rd country” imports”
 - EU approval manufacturing/processing plants
 - Veterinary certification (extra costs)
 - Import fees
 - Inspection at Borders- time delays
 - Must meet EU standards
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Making changes to EU legislation - Official Controls review case study

- One EU food control model?
 - Official vets not Environmental Health
 - Risks loss of public protection
 - UK has a voice and some support
 - Plans to review all hygiene legislation
 - Ongoing UK influence?
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General Brexit effects on food control ?

- Loss of “Free trade” status
 - UK as “3rd country”?
 - Checks on EU imports?
 - New Free trade agreement with EU e.g Norway or Switzerland?
 - Will need to meet all EU standards, no voice in new legislation
 - New trade agreements, new standards?
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Brexit effects on domestic food control?

- EU standards for exports to EU remain
 - New national legislation – higher/lower standards?
 - Less/different business controls?
 - “Cheaper less competent inspectors”?
 - Independent, consistent public sector inspections?
 - What price public protection?
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Operational food control



- Inspection
- Verification
- Audit
- Sampling and analysis
- Surveillance
- Education and advice
- Food Hygiene Rating scheme

Future food control?

Brexit or not there will be changes:

- Less public sector intervention, more intelligence led or reactive activities
 - Greater risk based focus
 - More “business responsibility”, more reward
 - More consumer influence/empowerment
 - Conflict between local and national interests
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 - “Post code lottery?”
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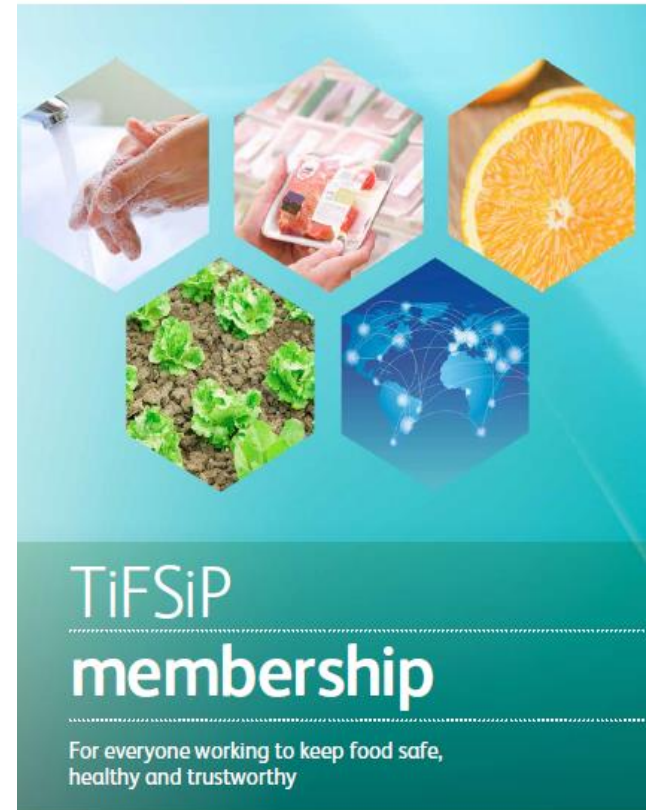
Thank you

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