

Food Safety Conversation No21: Natasha's Law

Key Learning

The Food Information Regulations (Amendments) 2019, also known as Natasha's Law, has been introduced to ensure customers have access to the full ingredient and allergen information for pre-packed foods to allow them to make an **informed choice** before purchase.



What You Need To Know

- Pre-Packed Foods for Direct Sale (PPDS) includes foods which are made or prepared in the unit from which it is sold, and it is packaged before being offered for sale. It can be either foods the customer select themselves (e.g. from a display unit), as well as products behind the counter or sold at mobile or temporary outlets.

Foods That Require Labelling	Foods That Do Not Require Labelling
Sandwiches and bakery products which are packed in unit before a consumer selects or orders them	Traditional Counter Service – e.g. over the counter meal service
Fast food packed before it is ordered, such as a burger under a hot lamp	Deli Bar / Salad Bar – Any food to go where customer selects from an open food display and it is packaged after section
Products that are pre-packaged on site ready for the lunchtime sale, such as pizzas, pasties, salads and pasta	Pre-ordered Packaged Primary School Meals where parents have selected the meal
Foods packaged and then sold elsewhere on the premises at a mobile / temporary site or vending machine by the same food business	Patient / Resident Meal Service – Any form of hospital or care home patient feeding service whereby the food is ordered ahead of consumption
Pre-made drinks placed into lidded containers before being ordered by a customer	Hospitality – Any form of food ordered by the client for an event or meeting whereby an informed choice is made
	Packed Lunches / Picnics / Hampers – Any pre-ordered food whereby an informed choice is made before the food is packaged
	Distance Selling – Any foods purchased or pre-ordered via a website or mobile app
	Bought In Food – Any packaged foods bought in from a supplier or CPU will already be labelled

Note: Products which are packaged but sold through a pre-order service (schools / patient feeding / hospitality etc) are excluded from legislation as the 'informed choice' has already been made.

- There is a wide range of size and type of labels available depending on the product and complexity of the items. Should be labelled, but aren't must be removed from sale until the items can be labelled.



HACCP Stages

- Food preparation
- Cooking

Colleague Validation

- Should a pre-made sandwich that has been wrapped in clingfilm be labelled?
- Does a pie that is in an open take-away tray need to be labelled?
- Does a pre-made juice in a lidded container require labelling?
- What should you do if you notice that a pre-packed item, such as a packaged salad, doesn't have a label?

More Information

More information can be found within the **Good Hygiene Practice Guide No: 21 Natasha's Law** and the HSE website