

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and  
of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs

CHAPTER II

**FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS' OBLIGATIONS**

*Article 4*

**General and specific hygiene requirements**

1 Food business operators carrying out primary production and those associated operations listed in Annex I shall comply with the general hygiene provisions laid down in part A of Annex I and any specific requirements provided for in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

2 Food business operators carrying out any stage of production, processing and distribution of food after those stages to which paragraph 1 applies shall comply with the general hygiene requirements laid down in Annex II and any specific requirements provided for in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

3 Food business operators shall, as appropriate, adopt the following specific hygiene measures:

- a compliance with microbiological criteria for foodstuffs;
- b procedures necessary to meet targets set to achieve the objectives of this Regulation;
- c compliance with temperature control requirements for foodstuffs;
- d maintenance of the cold chain;
- e sampling and analysis.

[<sup>F1</sup> The criteria, requirements and targets referred to in paragraph 3, and associated sampling and analysis methods shall be prescribed by the appropriate authority.]

5 When this Regulation, Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and their implementing measures do not specify sampling or analysis methods, food business operators may use appropriate methods laid down in other [<sup>F2</sup>applicable legislation in force in the relevant constituent territory of Great Britain] or, in the absence of such methods, methods that offer equivalent results to those obtained using the reference method, if they are scientifically validated in accordance with internationally recognised rules or protocols.

6 Food business operators may use the guides provided for in Articles 7, 8 and 9 as an aid to compliance with their obligations under this Regulation.

**Textual Amendments**

- F1** Art. 4(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The General Food Hygiene \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/642\)](#), regs. 1, **5(a)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F2** Words in Art. 4(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The General Food Hygiene \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/642\)](#), regs. 1, **5(b)** (as substituted by [S.I. 2020/1504](#), regs. 1(2), **11(4)**); 2020 c. 1, **Sch. 5 para. 1(1)**

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the european parliament and of the council, Article 4.