
WELSH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2005 No. 3292

The Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2005

PART II

MAIN PROVISIONS

Hygiene improvement notices

6.—(1) If an authorised officer of an enforcement authority has reasonable grounds for believing that a food business operator is failing to comply with the Hygiene Regulations, the officer may by a notice served on that person (in these Regulations referred to as a “hygiene improvement notice”) —

- (a) state the officer’s grounds for believing that the food business operator is failing to comply with the Hygiene Regulations;
- (b) specify the matters which constitute the food business operator’s failure to comply;
- (c) specify the measures which, in the officer’s opinion, the food business operator must take in order to secure compliance; and
- (d) require the food business operator to take those measures, or measures which are at least equivalent to them, within such period (not being less than 14 days) as may be specified in the notice.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with a hygiene improvement notice will be guilty of an offence.

Hygiene prohibition orders

7.—(1) If —

- (a) a food business operator is convicted of an offence under these Regulations; and
- (b) the court by or before which the operator is so convicted is satisfied that the health risk condition is fulfilled with respect to the food business concerned,

the court will by an order impose the appropriate prohibition.

(2) The health risk condition is fulfilled with respect to any food business if any of the following involves risk of injury to health (including any impairment, whether permanent or temporary), namely —

- (a) the use for the purposes of the business of any process or treatment;
- (b) the construction of any premises used for the purposes of the business, or the use for those purposes of any equipment; and
- (c) the state or condition of any premises or equipment used for the purposes of the business.

(3) The appropriate prohibition is —

- (a) in a case falling within sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (2), a prohibition on the use of the process or treatment for the purposes of the business;

- (b) in a case falling within sub-paragraph (b) of that paragraph, a prohibition on the use of the premises or equipment for the purposes of the business or any other food business of the same class or description; and
- (c) in a case falling within sub-paragraph (c) of that paragraph, a prohibition on the use of the premises or equipment for the purposes of any food business.

(4) If —

- (a) a food business operator is convicted of an offence under these Regulations; and
- (b) the court by or before which the operator is so convicted thinks it proper to do so in all the circumstances of the case,

the court may, by an order, impose a prohibition on the food business operator participating in the management of any food business, or any food business of a class or description specified in the order.

(5) As soon as practicable after the making of an order under paragraph (1) or (4) (in these Regulations referred to as a “hygiene prohibition order”), the enforcement authority must —

- (a) serve a copy of the order on the relevant food business operator; and
- (b) in the case of an order made under paragraph (1), affix a copy of the order in a conspicuous position on such premises used for the purposes of the food business as they consider appropriate,

and any person who knowingly contravenes such an order will be guilty of an offence.

(6) A hygiene prohibition order will cease to have effect —

- (a) in the case of an order made under paragraph (1), on the issue by the enforcement authority of a certificate to the effect that they are satisfied that the food business operator has taken sufficient measures to secure that the health risk condition is no longer fulfilled with respect to the food business; and
- (b) in the case of an order made under paragraph (4), on the giving by the court of a direction to that effect.

(7) The enforcement authority must issue a certificate under sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (6) within three days of their being satisfied as mentioned in that sub-paragraph; and on an application by the food business operator for such a certificate, the authority must —

- (a) determine, as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 14 days, whether or not they are so satisfied; and
- (b) if they determine that they are not so satisfied, give notice to the food business operator of the reasons for that determination.

(8) The court must give a direction under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (6) if, on an application by the food business operator, the court thinks it proper to do so having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including in particular the conduct of the food business operator since the making of the order; but no such application will be entertained if it is made —

- (a) within six months of the making of the hygiene prohibition order; or
- (b) within three months of the making by the food business operator of a previous application for such a direction.

(9) Where a magistrates' court makes an order under paragraph (2) of regulation 8 with respect to any food business, paragraph (1) will apply as if the food business operator had been convicted by the court of an offence under these Regulations.

(10) Where the commission of an offence by a food business operator leads to the conviction of another person pursuant to regulation 10, paragraph (4) will apply in relation to that other person as

it applies in relation to the food business operator and any reference in paragraph (5) or (8) to the food business operator will be construed accordingly.

Hygiene emergency prohibition notices and orders

8.—(1) If an authorised officer of an enforcement authority is satisfied that the health risk condition is fulfilled with respect to any food business the officer may by a notice served on the relevant food business operator (in these Regulations referred to as a “hygiene emergency prohibition notice”) impose the appropriate prohibition.

(2) If a magistrates' court is satisfied, on the application of such an officer, that the health risk condition is fulfilled with respect to any food business, the court must, by an order (in these Regulations referred to as a “hygiene emergency prohibition order”), impose the appropriate prohibition.

(3) Such an officer may not apply for a hygiene emergency prohibition order unless, at least one day before the date of the application, the officer has served notice on the relevant food business operator of his or her intention to apply for the order.

(4) Paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 7 will apply for the purposes of this regulation as they apply for the purposes of that regulation, but as if the reference in paragraph (2) to risk of injury to health were a reference to imminent risk of injury.

(5) As soon as practicable after the service of a hygiene emergency prohibition notice, an authorised officer of an enforcement authority must affix a copy of the notice in a conspicuous position on such premises used for the purposes of the food business as he or she considers appropriate; and any person who knowingly contravenes such a notice will be guilty of an offence.

(6) As soon as practicable after the making of a hygiene emergency prohibition order, an authorised officer of an enforcement authority must —

- (a) serve a copy of the order on the relevant food business operator; and
- (b) affix a copy of the order in a conspicuous position on such premises used for the purposes of the food business as the officer considers appropriate,

and any person who knowingly contravenes such an order will be guilty of an offence.

(7) A hygiene emergency prohibition notice will cease to have effect —

- (a) if no application for a hygiene emergency prohibition order is made within the period of three days beginning with the service of the notice, at the end of that period; or
- (b) if such an application is so made, on the determination or abandonment of the application.

(8) A hygiene emergency prohibition notice or a hygiene emergency prohibition order will cease to have effect on the issue by the enforcement authority of a certificate to the effect that they are satisfied that the food business operator has taken sufficient measures to secure that the health risk condition is no longer fulfilled with respect to the food business.

(9) The enforcement authority must issue a certificate under paragraph (8) within three days of their being satisfied as mentioned in that paragraph; and on an application by the food business operator for such a certificate, the authority must —

- (a) determine as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 14 days whether or not they are so satisfied; and
- (b) if they determine that they are not so satisfied, give notice to the food business operator of the reasons for that determination.

(10) Where a hygiene emergency prohibition notice is served on a food business operator, the enforcement authority must compensate the officer in respect of any loss suffered by reason of the officer's complying with the notice unless —

- (a) an application for a hygiene emergency prohibition order is made within the period of three days beginning with the service of the notice; and
- (b) the court declares itself satisfied, on the hearing of the application, that the health risk condition was fulfilled with respect to the food business at the time when the notice was served,

and any disputed question as to the right to or the amount of any compensation payable under this paragraph is determinable by arbitration.

Remedial action notices and detention notices

9.—(1) Where it appears to an authorised officer of an enforcement authority that in respect of an establishment subject to approval under Article 4(2) of Regulation 853/2004—

- (a) any of the requirements of the Hygiene Regulations is being breached; or
- (b) inspection under the Hygiene Regulations is being hampered,

the officer may, by a notice served on the relevant food business operator or the operator's duly authorised representative (in these Regulations referred to as a "remedial action notice")—

- (c) prohibit the use of any equipment or any part of the establishment specified in the notice;
- (d) impose conditions upon or prohibit the carrying out of any process;
- (e) require the rate of operation to be reduced to such extent as is specified in the notice, or to be stopped completely.

(2) A remedial action notice must be served as soon as practicable stating why it is being served.

(3) If it is served under paragraph (1)(a), it must specify the breach and the action needed to remedy it.

(4) An authorised officer of the enforcement authority whose authorised officer served the original remedial action notice must, as soon as he or she is satisfied that such action has been taken, withdraw the notice by a further notice in writing served on the food business operator or his or her duly authorised representative.

(5) An authorised officer of an enforcement authority may, at an establishment subject to approval under Article 4(2) of Regulation 853/2004, by a notice served on the relevant food business operator or his or her duly authorised representative (in this regulation referred to as a "detention notice") require the detention of any animal or food for the purposes of examination (including the taking of samples).

(6) An authorised officer of the enforcement authority whose officer served the original detention notice must, as soon as he or she is satisfied that the animal or food need no longer be detained, withdraw the notice by a further notice in writing served on the food business operator or his or her duly authorised representative.

(7) Any person who fails to comply with a remedial action notice or a detention notice will be guilty of an offence.

Offences due to fault of another person

10. Where the commission by any person of an offence under these Regulations is due to the act or default of some other person, that other person will be guilty of the offence; and a person may be convicted of the offence by virtue of this regulation whether or not proceedings are taken against the first-mentioned person.

Defence of due diligence

11.—(1) In any proceedings for an offence under these Regulations, it is, subject to paragraph (2), a defence for the accused to prove that he or she took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence whether by the accused or a person under the accused's control.

(2) If in any case the defence provided by paragraph (1) involves the allegation that the commission of the offence was due to an act or default of another person, or to reliance on information supplied by another person, the accused will not, without leave of the court, be entitled to rely on that defence unless —

- (a) at least seven clear days before the hearing; and
- (b) where the accused has previously appeared before a court in connection with the alleged offence, within one month of the accused's first such appearance,

the accused has served on the prosecutor a notice in writing giving such information identifying or assisting in the identification of that other person as was then in his or her possession.