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# EU Exit Incident Systems and NFCU Update

Jonathan Davies
18 December 2018

# Overview

- **FSA role and responsibilities**
- **EU Exit Incidents Systems**
- **National Food Crime Unit Update**

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The Food Standards Agency is an independent Government department and is the UK's central competent authority for food and feed.

## The FSA's strategic aims:

- Food is safe.
- Food is what it says it is.
- Consumers can make informed choices about what to eat.
- Consumers have access to an affordable healthy diet, now and in the future.

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# THE CONSUMER PROTECTION TEAM

# Our contact details

**Food Standards Agency**
**11th Floor**
**Southgate House**
**Wood Street**
**Cardiff**
**CF10 1EW**

**wales.foodincidents@food.gov.uk**

**Tel: 029 2067 8961**

**Out of hours: 07889 926 573**

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# WHAT IS A FOOD INCIDENT?

# What is an incident?

**The FSA defines an incident as:**

**“Any event where, based on the information available, there are concerns about actual or suspected threats to the safety, quality or integrity of food and/or feed that could require intervention to protect consumers’ interests”.**

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# What is a food hazard?

**The FSA defines a food hazard as:**

**“A food incident involving a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, food with the potential to cause an adverse effect on the health or safety of consumers.”**

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# The Code of Practice

**Chapter 2.2 – Managing Incidents and Alerts**

**Deals with food incidents and food hazards that are first identified by Food Authorities.**

**Authorities should set up and implement a documented procedure for dealing with food incidents that are identified within their area. Categories of food hazard are defined in 2.2.2.1 :**

- **localised food hazard**
- **serious localised food hazard**
- **non-localised food hazard**

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# TYPES OF INCIDENT

# Chemical contamination

- **Dioxins / Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons** (PAHs)
- **Natural chemical contaminants**
  - Mycotoxins
- **Food contact materials**
  - Melamine
- **Process contaminants**
  - Acrylamide
- **Vet Meds/Pesticides/Biocides**

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# Microbiological contamination

- **Bacterial**
  - Salmonella / Listeria / VTEC / Bacillus / Staph aureus / Clostridium
- **Viral**
  - Hep E
- **Fungal**
  - Spoilage / blown cans
- **Parasitic**
  - Anisakis (Nemotode), C. Bovis (Beef Tapeworm)
- **Algal**
  - Amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP) / Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) / Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP)

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# Physical contamination

- Glass, metal, hair, rubber, soft & hard plastic, animal origin, wood, paper/card
- One off serious / multiple reports
- Malicious tampering?

➢ Liaison with police and National Crime Agency

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# Environmental contamination

- **Spills/leaks**
  - Oil
  - Gas
  - Diesel
  - Nuclear
  - Other chemicals

- **Fires**

- CHEmical METeorology Report (CHEMET)

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# ‘On Farm’ incidents – APHA lead

- **Disease**
  - Botulism
  - Avian Influenza (AI)
  - Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD)
- **Poisoning**
  - Heavy metals
- **Vet Meds**
- **Feed**
  - Chemical / Microbiological / GMO / SRM

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**Labelling / Documentation**

- Allergens
- Date codes

**Colours**

**Illegal imports/exports**

- Paan leaves from Bangladesh
- Bush meat
- Clandestines

**AND**

**Novel Foods**

- GMOs
- Kava / Goji berries etc.

**Food Irradiation**

**Unauthorised premises/processes**

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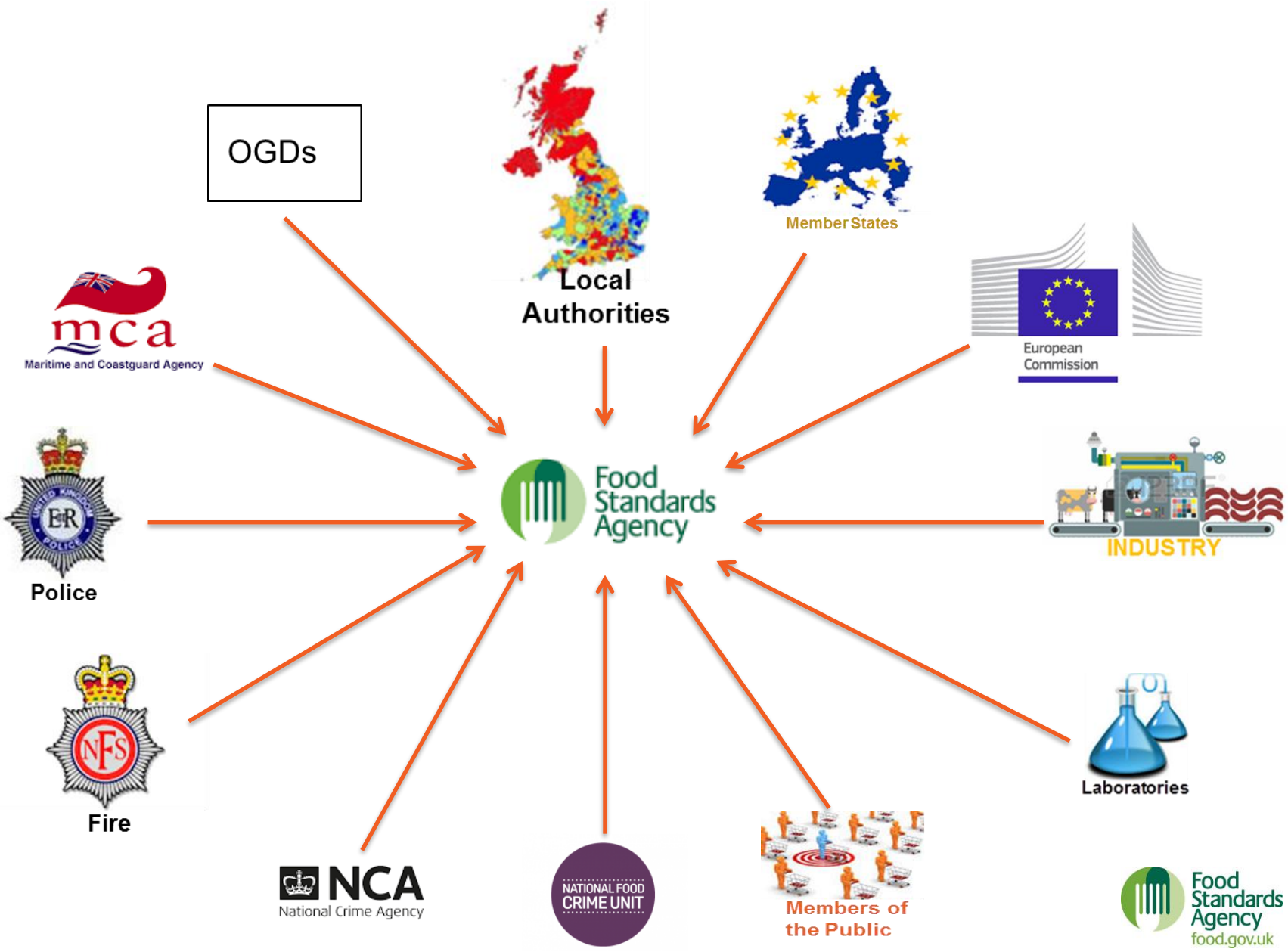
# WHO NOTIFIES US?


OGDs
Local Authorities
Member States
mca
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
European Commission
Food Standards Agency
INDUSTRY
Police
Fire
Laboratories
NCA
National Crime Agency
NATIONAL FOOD CRIME UNIT
Members of the Public
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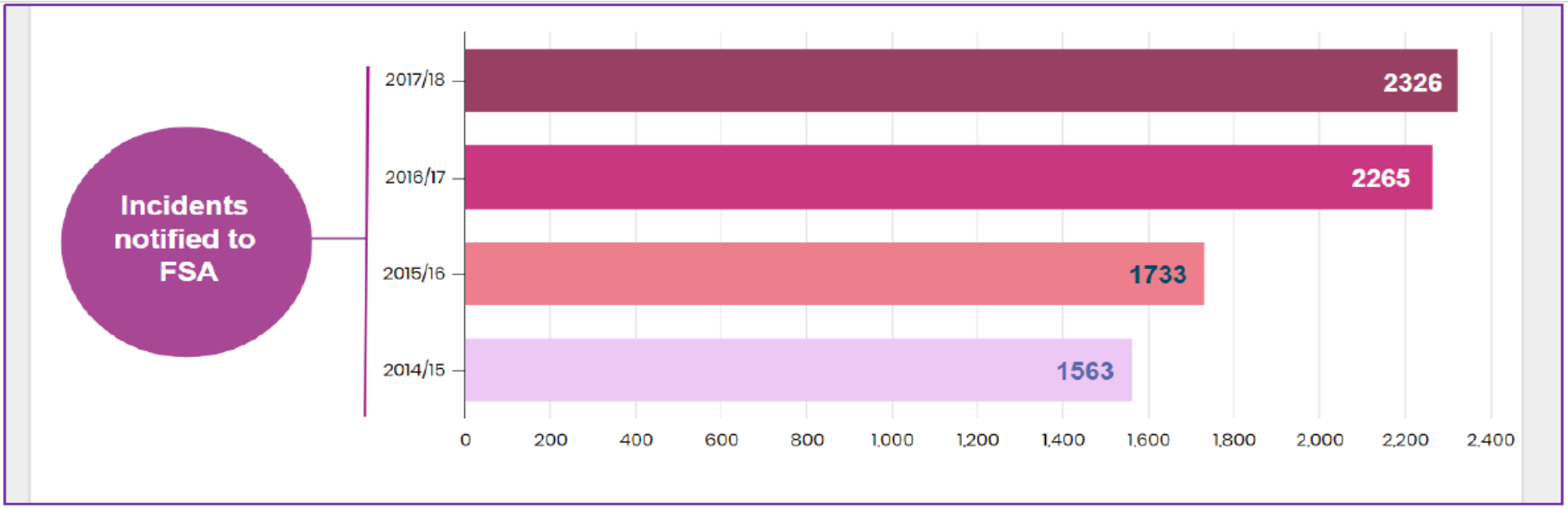
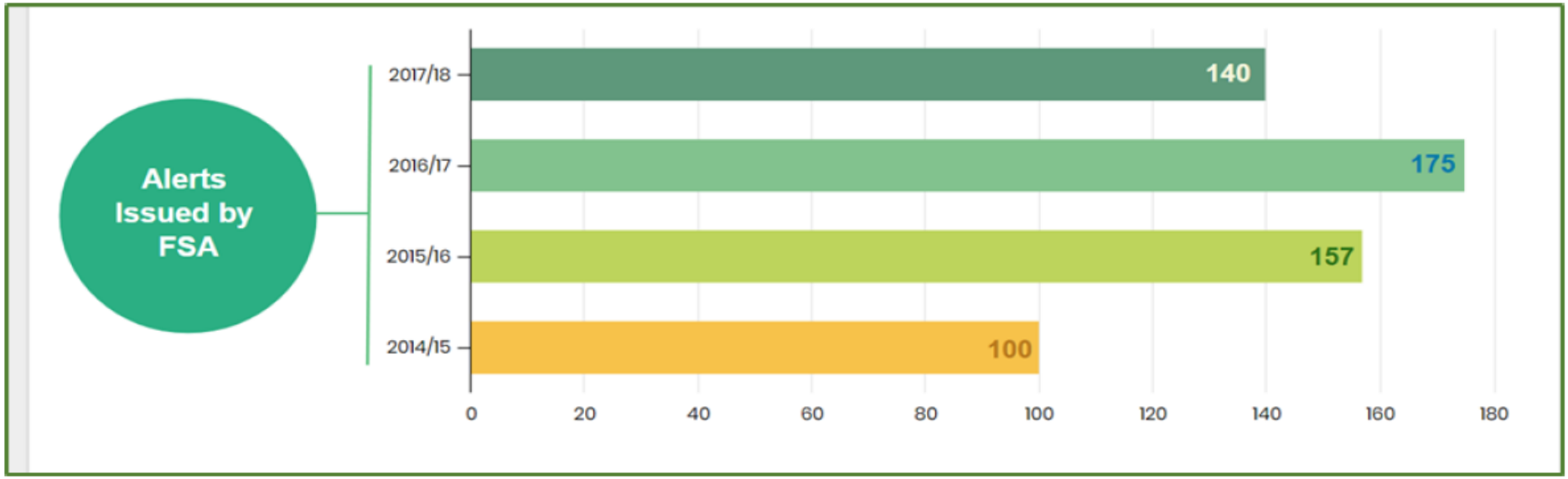
# Number of Incidents and Allergy Alerts



# Incident Factors

**The number of incidents recorded in any given year can be affected by many factors:**

- **new consumer trends**
- **technological developments**
- **legislative changes**
- **the amount of testing carried out**
- **even the weather**

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# REPORTING AN INCIDENT

# How to report an incident

**Fill in form on website:**

https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/food-incidents

http://incidents.foodapps.co.uk/login.aspx

**Fill in report template in Annex of the Code and send to:**

Wales.FoodIncidents@food.gov.uk

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IN THIS TOPIC

What a food incident is
Report an incident
Preventing an incident
Food incident happening in your business
Our incident management plan
Protecting and defending food and drink from deliberate attack

# Food incidents

How to report, respond to and prevent an incident, as well as carrying out monitoring and planning work.

Last updated: 5 February 2018

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## What a food incident is

A food incident is where concerns about actual or suspected threats to the safety, quality or integrity of food and feed require intervention to protect consumers.

Incidents fall into two categories:

- contamination of food or animal feed in processing, distribution, retail and catering - resulting in action to remove the food from sale or recall it from the public
- environmental pollution incidents such as fires, chemical/oil spills and radiation leaks, which may involve voluntary or enforced action

## Report an incident

We lead on how the government responds to food incidents. We do this by monitoring food and feed safety patterns in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and provide guidance and workshops to industry.

Report an incident

# What information do we require?

- Product
- Accurate description of problem
- Photograph of product, if possible
- Description – size, date code, batch/lot code etc.
- Laboratory certificates
- The amount produced and when
- The amount distributed and recovered
- Where it has been sold / customer details
- What action has been taken by the company
- Any other relevant information

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# Best Practice & Tips

1. Use the Incident Form
2. Use the subject box when sending an email. Consider amending the subject box on each email
3. Keep product descriptions consistent across pack, photos, incident form, emails, analytical certificates, filenames
4. Summarise information and present it in a useable format e.g. tabulate
5. Verify and sense check information
6. Consider using scale & date on photos. Ensure photos are not blurred.
7. Try to keep emails to less than 10 MB
8. Put your contact details (telephone, mobile, email) on the signature of your email
9. Follow up to ensure recall/withdrawal has taken place /POS in place
10. Forward corrective actions and degree of recall success to FSA

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# INCIDENT PROCESS - SUMMARY

# How are incidents managed within the FSA

- **Incidents Officers based in FSA Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Food Standards Scotland.**

- **Incident lead will be based in the country where the source of the incident is located.**

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All relevant info

**CP Team**
Assess and liaise with CA

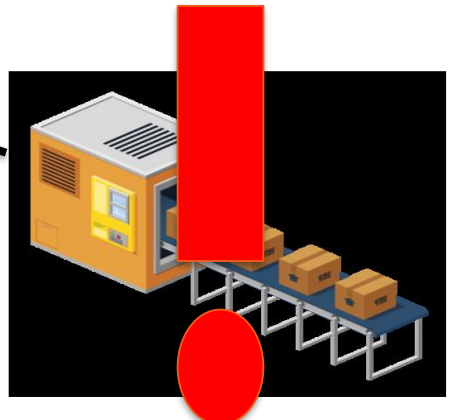
**FSA policy teams who provide**
- Risk assessment
- Risk Management advice
- Legal advice

***Escalate?***

Incident report form

**CP Team**
Assess info
Communicate position and actions to CA

**Competent Authority**



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# Risk Analysis

**Risk Assessment (science based)**

1. Hazard identification
2. Hazard characterisation
3. Hazard assessment
4. Risk characterisation

**Risk Management (policy based)**

1. Evaluation
2. Management option assessment
3. Implementation of management decision
4. Monitoring and review

**Risk Communication**

Interactive exchange of information and options on risk among risk assessors, risk managers, and stakeholders

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# Risk Analysis

Nature of contaminant?

What / who is affected?

Political factors?

**Risk Assessment (science based)**

1. Hazard identification
2. azard aracterisation
3. azard ssessment
4. Risk characterisation

**Risk Management (policy based)**

1. Evaluation
2. Management option assessment
3. Implementa manageme
4. Monitoring and review

What is the estimate of exposure?

Media / Press interest?

**Risk Communication**

Interactive exchange of information and options on risk among risk assessors, risk managers, and stakeholders

Can risk be quantified?

Public interest & perceptions?

Are there enough resources to handle the incident?

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# Risk Classification

- Agency matrix – Routine / Non-Routine

- Severity
- Complexity
- Resource allocation

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# Required Response for Incident Type

| Incident Classification | Incident Classification | Level of Required Response |
|---|---|---|
| Major | Non-Routine | Strategic, Tactical & Operational |
| Severe | Non-Routine | Strategic, Tactical & Operational |
| Serious | Non-Routine | Tactical & Operational (IMCG) |
| Routine | Routine | Operational (IMCG) |

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# RISK COMMUNICATION

# What Action do we take?

- Advice to LAs
- Advice to consumers
- Food Alerts – PRIN, Allergy Alert, FAFA
- RASFF notifications
- Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) communications
- International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN)
- Statutory restrictions (FEPA)

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RASFF

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

- FSA must notify Commission of all statutory non-compliances (where there is a risk to health)
- Enables confidential transfer of information between Member States

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# Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) System

## Border inspection posts (BIPs)

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# EU EXIT INCIDENT SYSTEMS

# Incident & Systems (Inc RASFF) Project

- The UK currently relies on the EU framework for notifying and handling food safety issues.

- Our level of access to EU systems and networks might change when the UK leaves the EU

- To ensure food safety the FSA is strengthening and developing the incident management processes that it employs by fostering strong relationships with competent food safety authorities in Europe and worldwide and is developing new risk communication systems

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# Incident & Systems (Inc RASFF) Project (cont'd)

- Increase capacity and capability within the Consumer Protection Team to interface with existing systems so that we can:
  - » engage with the competent food safety authorities of our main trading partners on a regular basis to exchange information relating to safety
  - » communicate with other countries where there are potential risks to the safety of food either being imported into the Wales or exported from Wales
  - » monitor selected data sources to identify signals indicative of potential food safety risks to Wales which may require mitigation
  - » validate, triage and prioritise potential issues

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# FOOD AND FEED INCIDENT HANDLING AND RESPONSE

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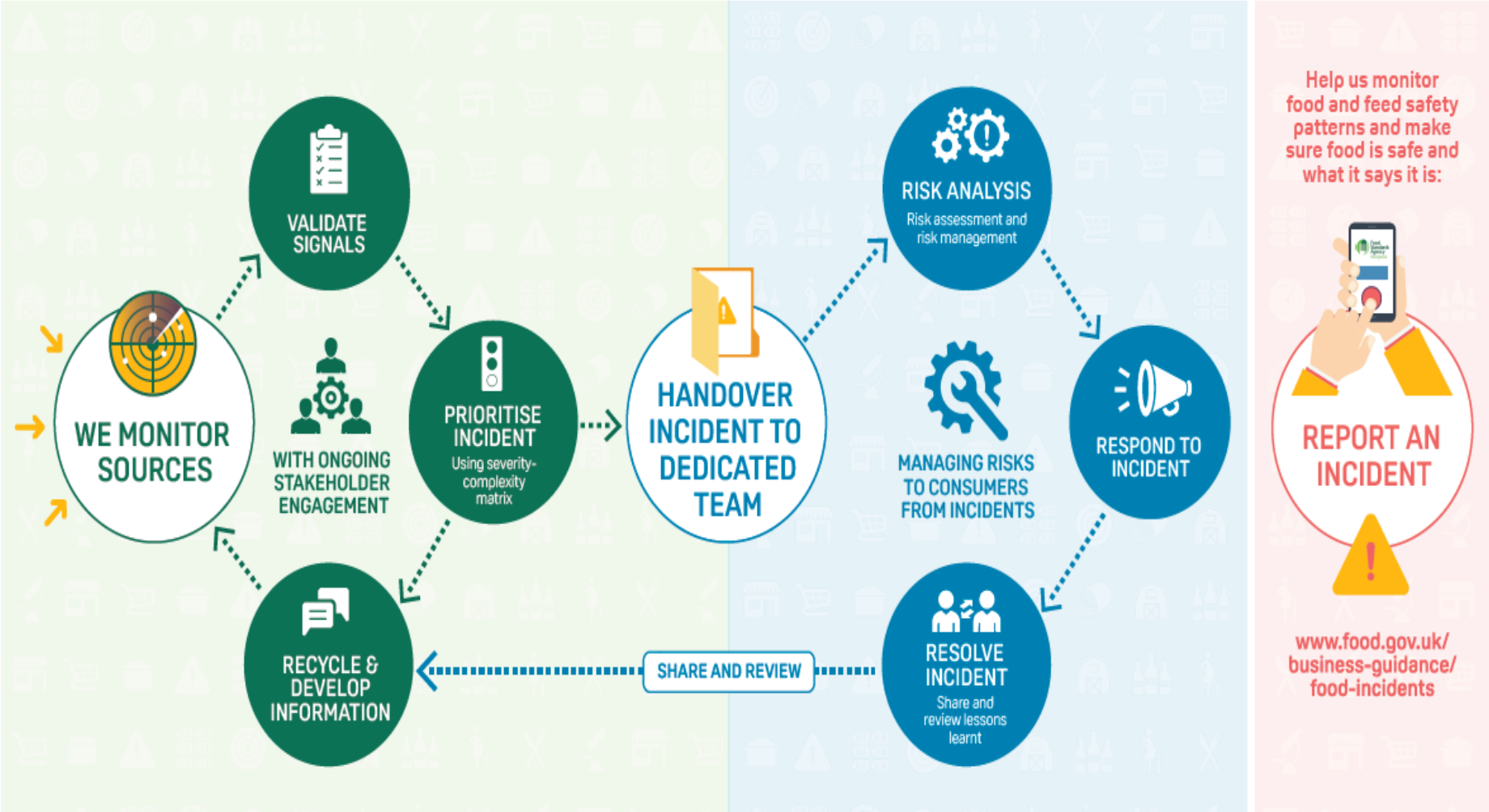
This process workflow shows one of the ways the Food Standards Agency will ensure that the high standard of food safety and consumer protection we enjoy in the UK is maintained when the UK leaves the EU



# INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY AND REGULATION

**What are we doing:**

- Strengthening our partnership with INFOSAN
- Being an INFOSAN advocate
- Sharing guidance and initiatives to improve food safety
- Through INFOSAN we will engage with other countries to influence global standards for feed and food safety

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# EU Exit Contingencies Work

- Contingency Planning
- Increasing Capability and Capacity
- Local Authority Engagement
- Exercises
- Industry Forums

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# FOOD DEFENCE

# Food Defence

- PAS 96:2017
- Guide to protecting and defending food and drink from deliberate attack
- Benefits to industry of adopting guidance
- Case Studies

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# NFCU UPDATE

# Remit of the NFCU

- Serious dishonesty that impacts detrimentally on the safety or authenticity of food.

- Conduct is considered serious in this context by reference to the nature and extent of the harm it causes, the level of organisation involved and the geographical scope of the offending.

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# Recruitment

- Aim to be fully operational by March 2019
- New Head of Food Crime
- Senior Investigations Officer
- Investigations Officer
- Regional Liaison Officer

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# Intelligence

- Share any suspicions of food fraud or crime with the NFCU - foodcrime@food.gov.uk

- Submission of an Intelligence Report to your Local Intelligence Liaison Officer (LILO) marked for dissemination to the NFCU

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# Engagement

- Work with local authorities
- Collaboration
- Develop relationships

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# THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Any Questions?