



Food inspections and the hygiene rating scheme



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Food Safety Inspections

Environmental Health Officers carry out regular checks on all food premises. It is an offence to sell or process food for sale which is harmful to health. Businesses must ensure activities are carried out in a hygienic way, which includes:

- conditions and cleanliness within a food business
- food handling practices
- personal hygiene
- training of staff
- written food safety procedures
- imported foods
- and much more

Visits are carried out, as far as possible, without prior notification and are priority programmed according to the degree of potential risk, to ensure higher risk premises are visited more frequently than those in lower risk categories.

During an inspection



Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

The scheme helps you choose where to eat out or shop for food by giving you clear information about the business' hygiene standards. We run the scheme in partnership with the Food Standards Agency.

We give businesses a rating from 5 to 0 which is displayed at their premises and online so you can make more informed choices about where to buy and eat food.

The scheme is set out in law in Wales and Northern Ireland, however businesses in England do not have to display their rating



at their premises but are encouraged to do so.

Check the score rating of a food business
in Hertsmere

Understanding Ratings



The rating scale



Differences between online ratings and rating
sticker displayed



Frequency of inspections




Where can I get further information?

The Food Standards Agency provide more details about the [Food Hygiene Rating Scheme](#).

They also provide:

- [A guide for consumers](#)
- [A guide for business](#)

We produce a  [service plan](#) every year, detailing the aims and objectives of the food safety service and how it is run.

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