



Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)

Every food business lawfully needs to ensure the health and safety of customers whilst visiting their establishment. To ensure this, they need to take reasonable measures to avoid risks to health. HACCP is a food safety management system which is used in businesses to ensure dangers and risks are noted and how to avoid them.

All food businesses are required to:

- assess and review food safety risks
- identify critical control points to reduce or remove the risk from happening
- ensure that procedures are followed by all members of staff
- keep records as evidence to show that the procedures in place are working.

Food Hazards

A food hazard is something that makes food unfit or unsafe to eat that could cause harm or illness to the consumer. There are three main types of food safety hazards:

- **Chemical** – from substances or chemical contamination e.g. cleaning products.
- **Physical** – objects in food e.g. metal or plastic.
- **Microbiological** – harmful bacteria e.g. bacterial food poisoning such as Salmonella.

HACCP table

Here is an example of a HACCP table – it states some risks to food safety and some control points.

Hazard	Analysis	Critical Control Point
Receipt of food	Food items damaged when delivered / perishable food items are at room temperature / frozen food that is thawed on delivery.	Check that the temperature of high-risk foods are between 0°C and 5°C and frozen are between -18°C and -22°C. Refuse any items that are not up to standard.
Food storage (dried/chilled/frozen)	Food poisoning / cross contamination / named food hazards / stored incorrectly or incorrect temperature / out of date foods.	Keep high-risk foods on correct shelf in fridge. Stock rotation – FIFO. Log temperatures regularly.
Food preparation	Growth of food poisoning in food preparation area / cross contamination of ready to eat and high-risk foods / using out of date food.	Use colour coded chopping boards. Wash hands to prevent cross-contamination. Check dates of food regularly. Mark dates on containers.
Cooking foods	Contamination of physical / microbiological and chemical such as hair, bleach, blood etc. High risk foods may not be cooked properly.	Good personal hygiene and wearing no jewellery. Use a food probe to check core temperature is 75°C. Surface area & equipment cleaned properly.
Serving food	Hot foods not being held at correct temperature / foods being held too long and risk of food poisoning. Physical / cross-contamination from servers.	Keep food hot at 63°C for no more than 2 hours. Make sure staff serve with colour coded tongs or different spoons to handle food. Cold food served at 5°C or below. Food covered when needed.