

# Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering - Unit 1-1.4.1: Hospitality and catering and the law

There are several food legislations and laws that you need to be aware of, which are food labelling laws, food safety legislation and food hygiene.

## Food labelling laws

By law, the following must be shown on food packaging and labels:

- name of the food
- list of ingredients
- allergen information noted clearly and in bold on the packaging or label
  - ◇ The 14 possible allergens include: celery, cereals containing gluten (e.g. wheat, oats and barley), crustaceans (e.g. lobster, prawns and crab), eggs, fish, lupin, milk, molluscs (e.g. oysters and mussels), mustard, peanuts, sesame, soybeans, tree nuts (e.g. almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts, cashews, pecans, pistachios and macadamia nuts) and sulphur dioxide and sulphites (information from [www.food.gov.uk](http://www.food.gov.uk)).
- storage instructions
- name and address of manufacturer
- nutrition information
- cooking instructions
- weight of ingredients
- use by dates and/or best before dates.

The label must not be misleading and must be clear and easy to understand.



## Food safety legislation

Under the Food Safety Act 1990, any businesses that prepare, cook and sell food must meet the following criteria:

- make sure the food is safe to eat
- the food packaging or label must not be misleading in any way, e.g. if the packaging states the product is suitable for vegetarians it must not contain any meat
- the food product is what the consumer expects it to be.

## Food hygiene

The Food Hygiene Regulations 2006 ensures that food at any time of production, apart from primary production (e.g. catching fish, milking animals, etc.), is handled and sold in a hygienic way.

These regulations also aim to do the following:

1. identify potential food safety hazards
2. enables to identify where exactly in the process that things could go wrong – these are called **critical control points**
3. put controls in place to prevent food safety risks from happening
4. ensure that the control measures that exists are always followed and are reviewed frequently.

