



An tOifig Náisiúnta um Sláinte Chomhshaoil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Urlár 2, Teach na Darach, Ascaill na Teile
Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara.

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National Office for Environmental Health
Health Services
2nd Floor, Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

10th October, 2019.

Deputy Micheál Martin,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 39356/ 19: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the number of inspections that EHOs have undertaken of service stations; if they are inspected as regularly as restaurants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. Micheál Martin

Dear Deputy,

The Environmental Health Service does not record a business type of "Service Station". Premises in this sector are categorised as Business Type of Retailer - Other. If a Service Station and a Restaurant have the same Risk Category then the inspection frequency will be the same as per the table below. A further description of risk categorisation and frequency of inspection is outlined below.

To date in 2019 approximately 5500 inspections have been carried out to premises within the Business type Retailer – Other. This includes all types of retail establishments. It is not possible to establish which are Service Stations.

To determine the frequency of inspection for a particular food business, the following steps are completed:

- Conduct a risk profile of each establishment
- Assign a risk category from 1-6 based on the risk profile
- Assign a standard frequency of inspection based on the risk category
- Consider if a deviation from the standard frequency of inspection is warranted

Risk profiling of establishments to determine risk category.

The risk profile is based on the nature and extent of the food business taking account of the following:

- Type of food handled/processed/manufactured
- Method of handling/processing/manufacturing
- Scale of the operation
- At risk consumers

Risk categorisation

Risk categories range from 1 - 6 in descending order of risk. In general, each establishment will be assigned to a risk category from 1 - 6 based upon its risk profile.



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Frequency of Planned Inspection

The standard frequency of Planned Inspections is based on the risk category into which a particular food business or establishment falls. The following table outlines the standard frequency of inspection per risk category.

Risk Category	Standard Frequency
1	2 Planned Inspections/year
2	1 Planned Inspection & 1 Planned Surveillance Inspection/year
3	1 Planned Inspection & 1 Planned Surveillance Inspection/18 months
4	1 Planned Inspection/18 months
5	1 Planned Inspection/2 years
6	*Inspections to be scheduled as required

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Cosgrove,
Regional Chief Environmental Health Dublin Mid Leinster.