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PQRef: 49514/25 asked by Deputy Ken O'Flynn

Question:

To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of providers serving schools that have documented HACCP systems verified by inspection; to publish compliance rates with Reg. 852/2004; and to provide trend data and typical non-conformances found.

Dear Deputy O'Flynn

The HSE National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) supervises over 47,000 food businesses. These are categorised as follows;

- Manufacturer
- Packer
- Retailer
- Service Sector
- Transporter
- Wholesaler/Distributors
- Third Country Importer/Exporter
- Administrative Food Business

A school meal provider can fall under the business category of a manufacturer, retailer, service sector, wholesaler/distributor depending on the type of business model of each individual food business.

The NEHS does not have a specific category of food business as detailed in the request i.e. school meal providers and as such cannot provide a breakdown of data for the specific category of food businesses detailed in the request as the NEHS does not record data in the format requested.

The NEHS performs official controls in food businesses notified to the HSE to assess compliance with all aspects of EU and National law in the areas of food and food safety, integrity and wholesomeness at any stage of production processing and distribution of food, including rules aimed at ensuring fair practices in trade and protecting consumer interests.

These official controls include audit, inspections, sampling, examination of documentation, interviews of food business operators and staff and are undertaken on a risk assessed basis.



Food Business Operators have a legal obligation to ensure that during all stages of production, processing and distribution of food under their control, they must satisfy all the relevant requirements of food law. The HACCP requirement in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 is only one requirement of food law which is assessed during routine official controls.

The NEHS does not publish compliance rates with Regulation 852/2004 as this is only one aspect of food law assessed during official controls of food businesses and the NEHS cannot provide trend analysis and typical non-conformances found in providers serving schools as we do not have such a category of food business.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Dunne
Acting Regional Chief Environmental Health Officer