

SCORES ON THE DOORS

Not yet rated (NYR) – what does this mean?

In most cases this is because that there have been some changes at the business which mean that there hasn't been a recent enough hygiene inspection upon which we can base a star rating. The most common reason for this is when the business changes hands and there is a new food business operator (FBO).

Food businesses can only be given a star rating after our officers have carried out a primary food hygiene inspection. These ratings are posted on the website within 28 days of the date of the inspection unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Changes of ownership

If a food business is sold then the new FBO must register with our department. In effect this “wipes the slate clean” with regard to our interest in the previous owners and our officers should carry out an inspection of the “new” business within one month of the date of registration even if the last inspection was relatively recently.

The new owners might change the way that the business operates and they might employ different people to work there. These changes might affect the standards of hygiene at the business and therefore the new FBO can't assume that they will automatically inherit the existing star rating. Normally, the new business won't get its own star rating until one of our officers has carried out the first hygiene inspection and in the meantime the business is displayed as “not yet rated”.

Sometimes a change of ownership doesn't automatically result in changes to the business. The new FBO might keep all the existing members of staff, there will be no changes to the menu or the hygiene procedures and customers are unlikely to notice any differences. However we still need to update our records and still need to decide if the change of ownership warrants a new inspection or whether the business can inherit the existing star rating. This may take a few days and in the meantime the business will be displayed as “not yet rated”.

Changes to the Scores on the Doors scheme

From time to time we review the way in which we operate the scheme. For example, we might decide to include groups of premises that have previously been excluded from the scope of the scheme. These premises might not have had a recent enough inspection upon which we can base a star rating and they will be displayed as “not yet rated” until the next inspection is carried out.

Summary

Customers need not be concerned that a business is displayed as “not yet rated”. There are several reasons for this, most of which are no reflection on the standards of hygiene.

It is usually because of a change of ownership which means that we need to make some changes to our database. If necessary, our officers will carry out an inspection within one month of the change of ownership and a new star rating will then be issued.