

Re-Rating Policy

All Food Hygiene inspections are carried out strictly in accordance with the Guidance and Codes of Practice issued by the Food Standards Agency.

The Code of Practice may be viewed here

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/codeofpracticeeng.pdf

These Guidance states:

4.1.6: Frequency of Inspection: Inspection Ratings

Inspection ratings determine the interval that should elapse between one primary inspection of a food business and the next and the priority of the next primary inspection of that business relative to the other businesses in the Food Authority's planned inspection programme (See also Annex 5 of the Code of Practice).

Establishments subject to approval under Regulation 853/2004 are excluded from the Inspection Rating Scheme and are dealt with separately.

The inspection rating(s) of a food business should be assessed or reassessed at the conclusion of every primary inspection in accordance with Annex 5 (or any amendment thereto that may be notified to Food Authorities by the Agency).

Inspection ratings should not be re-assessed at secondary inspections.

Inspection programmes should be planned so that businesses are inspected no later than 28 days after the relevant date determined by the inspection rating.

4.1.7: Early Inspection

Circumstances may arise that make it appropriate to bring forward a primary inspection. Such circumstances may include when the Food Authority:

- Receives a new registration application;
- Receives a consumer complaint;
- Receives a request to change registration details;
- Becomes aware of any material change in the ownership, management, layout or nature of operation of a food business;
- Receives a referral under the Home Authority Principle;
- Receives a request or other information from the Agency;
- Becomes aware of a possible outbreak of foodborne infection;
- Becomes aware that the business may be closed at the time of the due date because of seasonal closure

Where a proprietor believes that an inspection has resulted in an unfair rating of the hygiene standards of the food business, then an appeal should be made to the Head of Public Protection. The inspecting officer will then be required to justify the score given and any reassessment will be made to the rating at the next update (usually one week).

Where proprietors have made improvements to seek an increased score following a primary inspection, then the premises will not be reassessed until the next primary inspection is carried out. This is in accordance with the Guidance above.