

The Food Standards Agency - Did you know?



By Nick Mann

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I'm very grateful for the opportunity to give you an overview of the Food Standards Agency.

Set up as an independent Government department in 2000, everything we do reflects our vision for safe food and healthy eating for all. Working alongside my colleague Toni Smith, our role in the South West is to strengthen links and develop better partnerships with organisations working at a regional and local level to tackle food safety and dietary health issues more effectively.

The Agency's website provides a wealth of resources and information. For example:

- For a practical guide to **food safety** visit <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/hygguid/fhlguidance/>
- The Food Standards Agency is the lead body to respond to **food incidents**. Visit <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/alerts/> to receive automatic notification of new food alerts.
- Failure to comply with UK and EU hygiene and safety rules on **imported food** could cause delay in shipments, increase costs and require action to be taken by enforcement authorities. For more information visit <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/>
- Train your employees on **food allergy and intolerance** by using our interactive on-line resource at <http://allergytraining.food.gov.uk/>
- The Agency is working with food businesses and their trade associations to support and encourage reductions in the levels of **saturated fat and added sugar** in the foods they produce. For details of the work with industry visit <http://www.food.gov.uk/healthiereating/satfatenergy/>

Our other sites www.eatwell.gov.uk, www.salt.gov.uk, www.food.gov.uk/scienceblog, and www.foodbase.org.uk will also provide you with sound evidence based information.

I'll be providing a monthly update on the activities of the Agency, so watch this space and look out for some training opportunities that we offer throughout the year.

Here's looking forward to a great summer.

Nick.