

Six Pump Court

Understanding the Food Regulatory Lifecycle

A presentation at the Food Safety and Regulatory Measures Conference August 2015 by Ian Thomas, Barrister



Introduction

- General principles
- From farm to fork – and beyond
- Regulation along the entire food chain
- After delivery to the final consumer
- Law, regulation and doing the right thing
- Summary

General issues

- Risk minimisation
- Safety of human health
- Hygienic production – HACCP
- Hazard and risk – science
- Not mislead
- Understanding the law

Research and development

- From conception to production
- Innovation
- The ultimate consumer
- Sales/profit
- If not appealing – will not sell
- If non-compliant – cannot sell

The regulatory lifecycle

- To protect consumers and businesses
- Along the food chain
- From farm …
- To fork …
- And beyond
- Integrated approach

The principles

General objectives

- All stages of the food chain
- High level of protection of health and consumers' interests.
- Ensure free movement of food
- Facilitate global trade of safe and wholesome food

Production stage

- Animals

  feeding, welfare, slaughter
- Crops

use of pesticides
- Food

composition

Labelling and claims

- General food law
- Claims – health and nutrition
- Nutrient profiles
- Free-from – gluten/GMO
- Natural
- Food supplements

Consumer issues

- Safety
- Not mislead
- Withdrawal and recall
- Food waste
- Consumers handling food
- Consumers and change

Local intelligence

- A global market
- Local market information
- Law and practice
- Regulation and enforcement
- Risk minimisation
- The global network

Regulation and enforcement

- Must be appropriate
- Must be proportionate
- Must create a level playing field for growth
- The moral ‘carrot’
- The legal ‘stick’
- Criminals or people doing their best

When things go wrong

- Compliance is a good thing
- Proactive to prevent problems
- Reactive to respond to problems
- Enforcement
- Penalties
- Reputation

It’s all too much!

- Why bother to understand the regulatory lifecycle of your product?
- It’s the law
- Doing the right thing
- Competitive advantage
- To sell your product

Thank you for listening

Ian Thomas, Barrister

6 Pump Court,
Temple,
London EC4Y 7AR

Tel: +44 (0) 207 797 8400
E-mail: ianthomas@6pumpcourt.co.uk