

### **New Labelling Rules for food sold loose and food service**

Currently food sold loose or pre-packed on site do not need to provide allergen information. From 12 December 2014 the EU Food Information to Consumers Regulation will require allergen information to be given with food sold loose or pre-packed on the premises. This will include fish mongers and catering establishments.

There is a legal requirement to inform the consumer as to the presence of **14 allergens**

- Milk
- Eggs
- Fish
- Crustaceans (e.g. crab, lobster, crayfish, shrimp, prawn)
- Molluscs (e.g. mussels, oysters, squid)
- Peanuts
- Tree nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, cashews, pecans, Brazils, pistachios)
- Sesame seeds
- Cereals containing gluten (i.e. wheat (such as spelt and Khorasan wheat), rye, barley, oats, or their hybridised strains)
- Soybeans
- Celery and celeriac
- Mustard
- Lupin
- Sulphites at concentration of ten parts per million and above

#### **Points to Remember**

- You must state the allergens present in each of the foods you sell.
- It is not sufficient to say it 'could' contain allergens.
- Only allergenic ingredients added deliberately need to be declared. Potential contaminants do not need to be declared, although you cannot declare a product is 'free from' an allergen unless specific steps are taken to avoid any possible cross contamination.

- Where ingredients are given the allergen is declared next to the ingredient in which it is present e.g. wheat (gluten). Where ingredients are not given, then the allergen information can be given in the form of 'contains.....'
- The information can be given via notices or other sources of information that are available to the consumer at the point of sale. The information can also be given verbally, with a notice informing the customer that the information is available on request. A member of staff trained to give this information should be available at all times.

Where the name of the allergen is clear from the name of the food it need not be declared. So fish sold loose does not need to declare it contains fish, but battered fish may, depending on recipe, need to declare milk, eggs, fish and wheat flour (gluten).

For more information on allergens <http://food.gov.uk/business-industry/guidancenotes/labelregsguidance/nonprepacked>

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