



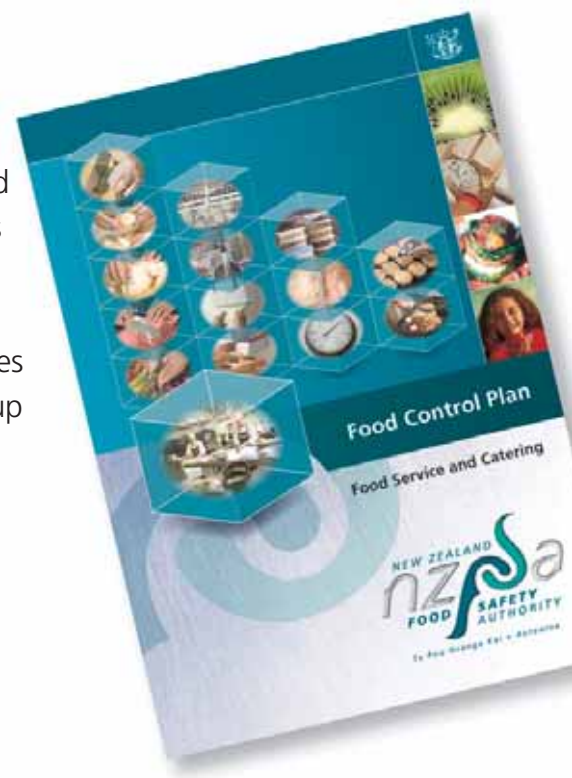
Food Control Plans coming soon!

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) is updating food laws to improve foodborne illness statistics and to ensure that food operators take responsibility for providing safe and suitable food.

Before the new law comes in, NZFSA and local councils are providing operators of takeaways, cafés, restaurants and catering establishments an opportunity to get ready for changes coming by taking part in the new system voluntarily. This involves using a new Food Control Plan that's designed to show operators how to produce safe food and meet the law by controlling the risk areas in preparing and selling food.

A Food Control Plan gives operators:

- step-by-step guidance on food safety procedures with tips for managing food safety
- supporting materials such as a fridge magnet and posters to remind your staff about the key points of food safety
- a digital thermometer
- checklists and forms for recording regular activities
- a diary for recording unusual events and follow-up actions
- an excellent staff training tool
- a certificate of participation (demonstrating your commitment to food safety).



How does this system differ from what happens now?

Under the existing Food Act, most food operators register their premises with their local council. An Environmental Health Officer inspects these registered premises each year to assess compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974.

With a Food Control Plan in place (registered as a Food Safety Programme) an operator will be exempt from the Food Hygiene Regulations. A council Environmental Health Officer (or representative) will verify (check) that the business is following its Food Control Plan and that it's appropriate for that business. The verifier does this by reviewing records, talking to management and staff, and visually assessing business activities.

What will happen when the new Food Act comes in?

The new Food Act will require nearly all commercial food businesses to have Food Control Plans; food sectors will be brought into the new system over a five year period. Those operators who opt in now will have the chance to keep their Food Control Plan in place until the end of that five year period.

How do I find out more information?

- contact your local council for more information about Food Control Plans
- updates can be found at: nzfsa.govt.nz
- NZFSA produces a free newsletter for food retail businesses, 4degreesC.
Email: 4dCEditor@nzfsa.govt.nz or call 0800 693 721 to subscribe.