

To: Lead Food Officers  
cc: REHIS, COSLA, SFELC

21 March 2017

FSS/ENF/17/009

Dear Colleague

### Reporting of serious localised food hazards

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) and the Food Standards Agency have recently been made aware of several incidents reported in the media of deaths with possible links to food allergies. The Incidents Team would like to remind local authorities of the requirements under the Food Law Code of Practice for competent authorities to notify the FSS of serious localised food hazards at the earliest opportunity and by the quickest available means. The notification should be confirmed in writing via the online incident report form.

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/food-incident-report-form>

The Food Law Code of Practice (paragraph 8.4(b)), provides information on what should be considered a serious localised food hazard. FSS considers that it is one in which food is not distributed beyond the boundaries of the competent authority but which involves or may involve E. coli O157, other VTEC, Clostridium botulinum, Salmonella typhii or Salmonella paratyphi, or which the Food Authority considers significant because of, for example, the vulnerability of the population likely to be affected, the numbers involved or any deaths associated with the incident. Serious localised food hazards should be notified by the Competent Authority to FSS and other relevant agencies. ***FSS considers that hazards involving allergens should also be included as a serious localised food hazard.***

This guidance will be emphasised within the new version of the Food Law Code of Practice (Scotland) when next revision takes place. Local Authorities should seek advice from FSS if there is doubt as to whether a food incident amounts to a food hazard. The FSS's Incident Team can be contacted as detailed below:

#### FSS Incident Team Contact Details

**Tel No:** 01224 288389 (or 07881 516867 outside business hours)

**E-mail:** [Incidents@fss.scot](mailto:Incidents@fss.scot)

Yours sincerely



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Incidents Manager