



Public Protection (food & safety)

Food Premises Inspection Report

Name of business:	Alco Stores
Address of food business:	28 - 29 Suffolk Square Norwich NR2 2AA
Date of inspection:	07/02/2023
Risk rating reference:	23/00133/FOOD
Premises reference:	16180/0028/0/000
Type of premises:	Convenience Store
Areas inspected:	All
Records examined:	Temperature Control Records
Details of samples procured:	None
Summary of action taken:	Informal
General description of business:	Small convenience store selling wrapped low and high risk foods.

Relevant Legislation

Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended)

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 applied by The General Food Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and No 853/2004 applied by Regulation 19 (1) of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and related regulations

Food Information Regulations 2014

What you must do to comply with the law

The report may include **Contraventions** - matters which do not comply with the law . You must address all of the contraventions identified; failure to do so could result in legal action being taken against you.

As a guide, contraventions relating to cleaning, temperature control and poor practice, should be dealt with straight away.

Contraventions relating to structural repairs, your food safety management system and staff training, should be completed within the next 2 months.

Health and safety contraventions should be dealt with within 3 months unless otherwise stated.

To assist you the report may also include **Observations** of current practice, useful **Information, Recommendations** of good practice and reminders of **Legal Requirements** .

My inspection was not intended to identify every contravention of the law and only covers those areas, practices and procedures examined at the time of the inspection. If the report fails to mention a particular matter this does not mean you have necessarily complied with the law.

FOOD SAFETY

How we calculate your Food Hygiene Rating:

The food safety section has been divided into the three areas which you are scored against for the hygiene rating: 1. food hygiene and safety procedures, 2. structural requirements and 3. confidence in management/control procedures. Each section begins with a summary of what was observed and the score you have been given. Details of how these scores combine to produce your overall food hygiene rating are shown in the table.

Compliance Area	You Score					
Food Hygiene and Safety	0	5	10	15	20	25
Structure and Cleaning	0	5	10	15	20	25
Confidence in management & control systems	0	5	10	15	20	30
Your Total score	0 - 15	20	25 - 30	35 - 40	45 - 50	> 50
Your Worst score	5	10	10	15	20	-
Your Rating is	5	4	3	2	1	0

Your Food Hygiene Rating is 3 - a generally satisfactory standard



1. Food Hygiene and Safety

Food hygiene standards are generally satisfactory and maintained. There is evidence of some non-compliance with legal requirements. Some lapses are evident however generally you have satisfactory food handling practices and procedures and adequate control measures to prevent cross-contamination are in place. The contraventions require your attention; although not critical to food safety they may become so if not addressed.
(Score 10)

Contamination risks

Observation I was pleased to see you were able to demonstrate effective controls to prevent cross-contamination.

Hand-washing

Contravention The following indicated that hand-washing was not suitably managed::

- equipment was seen draining in the wash hand basin- the basin must be kept clear for hand washing.

Legal Requirement An adequate number of wash hand basins must be available for use, they must be suitably located and designated for cleaning hands.

Information Hand washing is required:

- * before handling ready-to-eat food
- * after touching raw food and its packaging, including unwashed fruit and vegetables
- * after a break/smoking
- * after going to the toilet
- * after cleaning
- * after removing waste
- * after blowing your nose

Guidance Proper hand-washing is essential to prevent cross-contamination of E.coli 0157 and other harmful bacteria onto food and food contact surfaces. Hand washing should include the following steps:

- * wet hands before applying soap
- * good hand rubbing technique
- * rinsing of hands
- * hygienic drying

Recommendation

Personal Hygiene

Observation I was pleased to see that standards of personal hygiene were high.

Temperature Control

Recommendation Put a fridge thermometer in each of your fridges or chillers. These will give you an independent reading of the air temperature inside the unit.

Observation I was pleased to see you were able to limit bacterial growth and/or survival by applying appropriate temperature controls at points critical to food safety and that you were monitoring temperatures.

Unfit food

Legal Requirement Any food which is found at your food premises is presumed to be intended for sale and must comply with the law.

Information High risk items have a use by date. After this date you must not sell, use or intend to these foods. Make sure you have regular checks in place to remove out of date items

Recommendation You should have a system to identify when open or prepared foods need to be used by or discarded, to ensure the food is fit for consumption. I recommend you apply labels which give a date that is 2 days after the day of production e.g. if food is opened on Monday it should be used by the end of Wednesday (an exception is cooked rice which should not be kept longer than 24 hours)

Observation Remove out of date food securely, where it cannot be picked up by customers.

Poor Practices

Contravention The following matters represented poor practice and if allowed to continue may cause food to become contaminated or lead to its deterioration::

- out of date items must be removed from sale and should be stored away from customers to prevent risk of resale. Items were seen stored in the shop still. Good practice would suggest storing these in a clearly labelled lidded container away from the shop floor.
- although no items were on display past their use by date, I discussed this with the staff seen. They were not adequately aware, and conceded that they would label and reduce such an item, but leave on display until the day after. This is unsatisfactory. Please review and train staff.

Guidance It is permitted to sell food after its BEST BEFORE date, but becomes an offence if it is not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the consumer. You must check the food and make sure your customers are aware that it is past the BEST BEFORE date.

2. Structure and Cleaning

The structure facilities and standard of cleaning and maintenance are all of a good standard and only minor repairs and/or improvements are required. Pest control and waste disposal provisions are adequate. The minor contraventions require your attention. **(Score 5)**

Cleaning of Structure

Contravention The following items were dirty and require more frequent and thorough cleaning::

- wash hand basin in WC lobby.

Observation The premises had been well maintained and the standard of cleaning was good.

Pest Control

Observation I was pleased to see that the premises was proofed against the entry of pests and that pest control procedures were in place.

3. Confidence in Management

There are generally satisfactory food safety controls in place although there is evidence of some non-compliance with the law. The contraventions require your attention; although not critical to food safety they may become so if not addressed. **(Score 10)**

Type of Food Safety Management System Required

Contravention You are a low risk business and do not have a food safety management system. You still require a minimum amount of documentation. This might include your hygiene rules, pest control reports, a staff illness and exclusion policy, a cleaning schedule, date coding, temperature checks of display chillers, and handover diary etc.

Although you were keeping a log for temperatures and stock rotation, this is not sufficient. As a consequence you could not demonstrate an effective system for managing food safety hazards.

Legal Requirement Food business operators must put in place, implement and maintain a permanent procedure or procedures based on HACCP principles:

- Identify hazards to food.
- Identify the critical limits (what is acceptable and unacceptable).
- Monitor critical control points to ensure critical limits are met.
- Keep appropriate records to demonstrate control measures are effective.

Information The absence of complete documentation has resulted in a poor score for confidence in management and this, in turn, has had an adverse effect on your Food Hygiene Rating.

Recommendation Choose Safer Food Better Business as your food safety management system. It is simple to implement and requires a minimum amount of record keeping.

Food Hazard Identification and Control

Contravention You have not identified these food hazards or the methods of control at critical points in your operation:

- food on sale with a use by date expired.

Information Before implementing a food safety management system such as Safer Food Better Business, basic good hygiene conditions and practices called prerequisites must be in place. Only then will your food safety management system be effective in ensuring the preparation of safe food.

Traceability

Observation Your records were such that food could easily be traced back to its supplier.

Infection Control / Sickness / Exclusion Policy

Contravention There was insufficient control over the contamination of food from food handlers known or suspected to be suffering from a food-borne disease or gastrointestinal illness::

- staff were not aware of the correct time to stay off work if ill.

Guidance UK Health Security Agency recommends that food handlers known or suspected to be suffering from a food-borne infection or gastrointestinal illness stay

Waste Food and other Refuse

Observation You had measures in place to dispose of waste food appropriately and were employing the services of an approved waste contractor.

Training

Recommendation A Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering or its equivalent (a 6-hour course leading to the award of a recognised certificate in food hygiene) would be appropriate for your food handlers. Booking details for the equivalent CIEH course are on our website: www.norwich.gov.uk

Recommendation Staff should refresh their food hygiene knowledge every 3 years so that they stay up to date with current legislation and good practice. Booking details for this course are on our website: www.norwich.gov.uk