



Public Protection (food & safety)

Food Premises Inspection Report

Name of business:	The Merchants Of Spice
Address of food business:	30 - 32 Colegate Norwich NR3 1BG
Date of inspection:	14/07/2023
Risk rating reference:	23/00608/FOOD
Premises reference:	15/00356/FD_HS
Type of premises:	Restaurant or cafe
Areas inspected:	Main Kitchen, Storeroom, External Store
Records examined:	Temperature Control Records, Cleaning Schedule, SFBB
Details of samples procured:	None
Summary of action taken:	Informal
General description of business:	Indian Restaurant.

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 4 - a good standard



1. Food Hygiene and Safety

Food hygiene standards are high. You demonstrated a very good standard of compliance with legal requirements. You have safe food handling practices and procedures and all the necessary control measures to prevent cross-contamination are in place. Some minor contraventions require your attention. **(Score 5)**

Contamination risks

Contravention The following exposed food to the general risk of cross-contamination with bacteria or allergens or its physical contamination with dirt, foreign objects or chemicals:

- Coloured boards which are badly scored. I recommend you replace the scored coloured boards.

Legal Requirement At all stages of production, processing and distribution, food must be protected from any contamination likely to render it unfit for human consumption, injurious to health or contaminated in such a way that it would be unreasonable to expect it to be consumed in that state.

Hand-washing

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

- The hot water was too hot for comfortable hand washing.
- The wash hand basin was not in regular use.
- Staff were using the equipment wash sink for handwashing. All staff should be reminded of the need to carry out proper handwashing at the dedicated wash hand basin.

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

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

Recommendation I recommend that you regulate the temperature of the hot water supply to allow for proper handwashing to be carried out.

Personal Hygiene

Guidance Regular hand washing is important for personal cleanliness. Remind all food handlers of the need to wash their hands before starting or returning to work, and specifically:

- * After using the toilet;
- * After handling rubbish;
- * After smoking;
- * After taking a break;
- * After handling raw food

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

Temperature Control

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.

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:

- electric fly killer and tray
- high level cleaning
- stained ceiling.
- spilled spices around dried goods bags
- surrounding area of dry goods where spices had spilled
- high level cleaning on ceiling lights fixtures.

Cleaning of Equipment and Food Contact Surfaces

Contravention The following items are dirty and must be cleaned:

- The protective film covering to the fridge needs to be removed to allow for adequate cleaning.

Maintenance

Contravention The following had not been suitably maintained and must be repaired or replaced:

- Mastic sealant to equipment wash sink.
- Damaged vent cover to wall of 1st floor storeroom.

Facilities and Structural provision

Observation I was pleased to see the premises had been well maintained and that adequate facilities had been provided.

Pest Control

Contravention Pest proofing is inadequate particularly in the following areas::

- The damaged vent cover to the wall of 1st floor storeroom has a hole and could allow pest access to the premises.

Recommendation The damaged vent cover to the wall of the 1st floor storeroom must be replaced/renewed to prevent access to pest.

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

Observation You were date labelling perishable foods appropriately and could demonstrate effective control over food spoilage organisms.

Observation You had colour-coded equipment and effective separation between raw and ready-to-eat food at all stages in your operation.

Observation You were monitoring (and recording) the temperatures of your fridges and freezers as well as the temperature of cooked/hot-held food and could demonstrate effective systems for controlling bacterial growth and survival.

Food Hazard Identification and Control

Contravention The following pre-requisites have not been met and this means that your food safety management system will be ineffective:

- cleaning is inadequate
- maintenance is inadequate
- staff hygiene is inadequate

Proving Your Arrangements are Working Well

Information I was informed that the name of the trading limited company had changed. You are required to provide up-to-date information on your food establishment. I therefore advise that you provide the name of your new limited company by completing a new food establishment registration form. A copy of the form can be found and completed online at www.norwich.gov.uk.

Traceability

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

Infection Control / Sickness / Exclusion Policy

Guidance UK Health Security Agency recommends that food handlers known or suspected to be suffering from a food-borne infection or gastrointestinal illness stay away from work until symptom-free for 48 hours.

Observation Policies were in place to prevent any infected food handler from contaminating food.

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 Catering 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