

Public Protection (food & safety)

Food Premises Inspection Report

Name of business:	Sahara Cafe And Patisserie
Address of food business:	22 - 24 St Benedicts Street Norwich NR2 4AQ
Date of inspection:	19/03/2025
Risk rating reference:	25/00261/FOOD
Premises reference:	18/00241/FD_HS
Type of premises:	Restaurant or cafe
Areas inspected:	All
Records examined:	Cleaning Schedule, Temperature Control Records, SFBB
Details of samples procured:	None
Summary of action taken:	Informal
General description of business:	Café

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 5 - a very 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:

- Damaged tongs in use that could shed broken particles
- Some pastries in the servery were not covered
- Chopping board was being used within splash range of the wash hand basin in the servery
- Dustpan and brush were stored near chopping boards
- Green cutting board badly scored and needs replacing

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.

Recommendation Chopping/cutting boards were being stored directly touching. Chopping/cutting boards must be stored in a rack properly divided to stop cross-contamination and to allow aeration

Recommendation Regularly check equipment for deterioration. For example, the plastic coating on food tongs splits and cracks over time and risks plastic contaminating food and makes cleaning difficult.

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

Hand washing

Recommendation After washing hands food handlers should turn the taps off using paper towel to prevent them from re-contaminating their hands.

Observation I was pleased to see hand washing was well managed.

Personal Hygiene

Observation Standards of personal hygiene were high.

Temperature Control

Guidance You cannot rely on taking chilled food temperatures by reading the temperature display on the refrigeration unit. You need an independent method that is clearly related to the actual food temperature.

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

Recommendation Rice cooked on the day of inspection was due to be kept for 2 days. Use cooked rice within 24 hours or discard.

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:

- Behind and under equipment in the kitchen
- Mastic joints behind sink

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

Cleaning of Equipment and Food Contact Surfaces

Observation You had colour-coded equipment on which to prepare food.

Cleaning Chemicals / Materials / Equipment and Methods

Guidance Even when using a surface sanitiser you should be following the TWO STAGE cleaning method. Apply the sanitiser once to remove visible dirt and food debris and then a second time to ensure effective disinfection. Make sure you follow the correct contact time for the product.

Recommendation Store items such as mops, buckets and rags in an area, room or cupboard separate from a food areas.

Observation I was pleased to see that the premises was generally kept clean and that your cleaning materials, methods and equipment were able to minimise the spread of harmful bacteria between surfaces.

Maintenance

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

- Paint work worn or peeling (small area on the ceiling and parts of the window frame)

Facilities and Structural provision

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

Pest Control

Contravention Pest proofing is inadequate particularly in the following areas:

- No fly screens to the small high window
- Damaged fly screen to the lower window

Recommendation Provide fly screens to openable windows and external doors in rooms in which food is prepared and handled

Observation I was pleased to see that pest control procedures were in place.

3. Confidence in Management

A food safety management system is in place and you demonstrate a very good standard of compliance with the law. You have a good track record. There are some minor contraventions which require your attention. **(Score 5)**

Type of Food Safety Management System Required

Observation Your SFBB was in place and working well. I was confident you had effective control over hazards to food.

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.

Proving Your Arrangements are Working Well

Contravention You are not working to the following safe methods in your SFBB pack:

- 4-weekly checks appear to have been completed but recent ones are not dated (Sept/Dec 24 seen and dated)
- Training records (some training records were completed at your other site)

Traceability

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

Infection Control / Sickness / Exclusion Policy

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:

https://www.norwich.gov.uk/info/20286/advice_for_food_businesses/1911/food_safety_training_courses

Allergens

Contravention You are failing to manage allergens properly:

- You are not informing customers about the risk of cross contamination with allergens
- You have not identified the allergens present in the food you prepare

Legal Requirement Caterers must provide allergy information on all un-packaged food they sell. Catering businesses include restaurants, take aways, deli counters, bakeries and sandwich bars etc. The potential for cross-contamination by allergens must also be made known to consumers. In addition food manufacturers must now label allergy causing ingredients on their pre-packed foods. You can obtain more information from the Trading Standards website www.norfolk.gov.uk/abc

Information The Food Standards Agency has produced a chart that you may find useful www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/allergen-chart.pdf

Information Allergen information could be written down on a chalk board or chart, or provided orally by a member of staff. Where the specific allergen information is not provided up front, clear sign posting to where this information could be obtained must be provided.

Information The 14 allergens are:

- cereals containing gluten
- crustaceans, for example prawns, crabs, lobster and crayfish
- eggs
- fish
- peanuts
- soybeans
- milk
- nuts, such as almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, pecan nuts, Brazil nuts, pistachio, cashew and macadamia (Queensland) nuts
- celery (and celeriac)
- mustard
- sesame
- sulphur dioxide, which is a preservative found in some dried fruit
- lupin
- molluscs, for example clams, mussels, whelks, oysters, snails and squid

Information The Food Information Regulations require that you know what allergens are in the food you provide. You can no longer claim you don't know what allergens are present. Neither can you simply state that all the foods you serve might contain an allergen:

- Be sure you know exactly what your allergens are
- Convey this information to your customers accurately and consistently

Recommendation Make a chart listing all your meals together with the 14 allergens (if present). Bring the chart to the attention of your customers and your staff.

Recommendation Add allergy information to your menu.

Information The Food Standards Agency run free allergen courses at <https://allergytraining.food.gov.uk/>