

Blackpool Council



Sampling Programme 2006 / 2007

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Blackpool Council recognises the important contribution food sampling makes to the protection of public health and the food law enforcement functions of the authority.
- 1.2 In developing a sampling programme consideration is given to: -
- protect the consumer through the enforcement of food legislation;
 - protect the consumer through the enforcement of minimum compositional requirements;
 - identify foods that pose a hazard to the consumer because they may contain significant levels of pathogenic bacteria;
 - assess the microbiological quality of food manufactured, distributed or retailed within the Blackpool Council area;
 - identify any contraventions of food safety legislation, e.g. General Food Regulations 2004 (food which is unfit or food which is so contaminated) or Food Safety Act 1990 Section 14 (food not of the quality);
 - help determine whether advice or enforcement action would be appropriate where it is suspected that poor practices and procedures exist;
 - offering advice and guidance, if appropriate, on food hygiene/food labelling and food compositional matters.

2. Scope of Sampling

- 2.1 Blackpool Council is a Unitary Authority and, food law is enforced by the Environmental Services Division. The Food Control Group is responsible for Food Hygiene and Food Standards. The food sampling programme will relate to sampling for microbiological and compositional examination.
- 2.2 In accordance with the food law code of practice the sampling programme has been prepared in consultation with colleagues from the Lancashire Food Officer Group and the Greater Manchester Food Liaison Group along with the Food Examiner from Preston Microbiology Services. The Food Standards sampling programme is prepared in consultation with Lancashire County Council's Public Analyst in accordance with an agreed service level agreement and is sufficiently flexible to allow additional sampling on issues which cause concern to the authority. Samples are acquired from all food producers depending on their risk category.
- 2.3 The council engages the services of Preston Microbiology Services, based at the Royal Preston Hospital, to undertake all microbiological examinations. This Laboratory has been approved by the Food Standards Agency for such examinations.

- 2.4 The County Analyst, based at the County Laboratory in Preston, is used for any foods or waters which require analysis. Samples related to the investigation of food complaints also form part of the annual sampling programme.
- 2.5 Advice will be sought from the appropriate laboratory regarding the size/quantity of the food sample required for examination.
- 2.6 Formal Food Sampling for microbiological compositional and labelling examination shall be in accordance with the authority work instructions (FSWI 4-01) or (FHW1 4-03) and the food law code of practice. Details of all samples shall be submitted on the laboratory submission form.

3. Funding

- 3.1 At present, funding for the examination of routine food samples is borne by Preston Microbiology Services based on a 'credit allocation system', which is calculated on the size of each authority. However, as the sampling programme is agreed jointly by two Food Officer Groups, there is the flexibility to share out unused or surplus credits, by agreement, between authorities if insufficient credits are available for a particular survey.
- 3.2 Sampling credits are levied for each type of food or examination undertaken. Details of the credit costs for each different type of examination, along with the calculation of the annual credit allocation for Blackpool Council are contained in Appendix 1. Preston Microbiology Services maintain the register of credits used and a report is issued to each authority on a quarterly basis. Details of the sampling credits are included as Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Some examinations are classed by Preston Microbiology Services as 'New Work' and do not have a credit value allocated to them. Blackpool Council will make payment for the examination of these samples, along with any fees for analysis of complaint samples, from the Environmental Services Unit budget.
- 3.4 The funding for the service level agreement with the Public Analyst is on a fixed cost for the agreed term.

4. Development of the Sampling Programme

- 4.1 The sampling programme is developed and published on a four-monthly cycle following discussion/ consideration by the survey sub-committee. This usually comprises of two officers from each of the Lancashire Food Officer Group and the Greater Manchester Food Liaison Group along with microbiologists from Preston Microbiology Services.
- 4.2 The survey sub-committee usually recommends three surveys for each survey cycle. The number of samples to be obtained by each authority is determined by various factors including: -
 - the ability of Preston Microbiology Services to undertake the examination of the samples;
 - the number of premises from which the samples can be obtained; and
 - the number of results necessary to enable meaningful data to be obtained and evaluated;
- 4.3 Recommendations for the surveys to be undertaken in the next survey cycle are agreed by the survey sub-committee and presented to the next meeting of the food officer group for acceptance. Suggestions and reasons for future surveys are made either by food officers through the food liaison meetings or as a result of outbreaks or incidents involving certain foods, where an extended survey could establish whether there might be a more widespread problem.

- 4.4 Where possible, one survey in each cycle shall, in addition to the food product sampled, include a questionnaire where additional information is gathered which may indicate reasons for poor sample results and assist in determining whether advice or enforcement action would be appropriate. A Protocol for the survey shall be drawn up and piloted by two authorities to test and, if necessary, refine the questionnaire/sampling technique before the survey is extended throughout the food liaison groups.
- 4.5 The sampling programme for compositional and labelling requirements is developed on an annual basis in conjunction with the Public Analyst depending on the risk category of local food producers.

5. Sampling Programme

- 5.1 The sampling programme shall consist of the food sample surveys recommended by the survey sub-committee and agreed by the Lancashire Food Officer Group. Details of the current and the previous three four month surveys are included as Appendix 3.

The sampling programme for compositional, labelling and presentation as agreed with the Public Analyst is reported to the Food Standards Agency on a quarterly basis.

- 5.2 At the end of each sample survey Preston Microbiology Services shall collate the results and produce a summary of the survey. This summary is then presented to the next meeting of the food liaison group.
- 5.3 Details of the completed surveys undertaken during 2005 are included as Appendix 4.
- 5.4 Copies of the completed survey reports are available for inspection on request.

APPENDIX 4

LANCASHIRE FOG/GREATER MANCHESTER FLG/FEMS – NW, PRESTON

CO-ORDINATED SAMPLING SCHEDULE

2006

Week Commencing	Survey No. 604001 Ery swabs/ meat production/ Listeria	Survey No. 604002 Cooked meats/Fav swabs retail/Listeria	Survey No. 604004 LACORS Study 27 Sandwiches/ hospital/residential care homes	Survey No. 404010* LACORS Study 26 Raw chicken	Survey No. 604003* HPA/VTRI Campylobacter Raw chicken <i>Lancashire FOG ONLY</i>	Survey No. 504014 FSA Cutting eggs	Survey No. 604009 Local Initiative	Survey No. Dairy samples (Local)
January 9 ✓	D	A	C	B	B		A	B
16 ✓	A	B	D	C	C		B	C
23 ✓	B	C	A	D	D		C	D
30 ✓	C	D	B	A	A	C	D	A
February 6 ✓	D	A	C	B	B		A	B
13 ✓	A	B	D	C	C		B	C
20 ✓	B	C	A	D	D		C	D
27 ✓	C	D	B	A	A	D	D	A
March 6 ✓	D	A	C	B	B		A	B
13 ✓	A	B	D	C	C		B	C
20	B	C	A	D	D		C	D
27	C	D	B	A	A	A	D	A
April 3	D	A		B	B		A	B
10	A	B		C	C		B	C
17	B	C		D	D		C	D
24	C	D		A	A	B	D	A

- * *Lancashire FOG - sample submitted for Survey 404010 will also be suitable for one of the two samples required for Survey 604003(see sampling protocol)*

Group	Authority
A	Blackpool, Burnley, Lancaster, Preston, Bury, Manchester, Bolton
B	Barrow, Blackburn, Fylde, Pendle, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford
C	Ribble Valley, South Lakes, South Ribble, West Lancs, Stockport, Tameside
D	Chorley, Hyndburn, Rossendale, Wyre, Trafford, Wigan

LANCASHIRE FOG/GREATER MANCHESTER FLG/FEMS – NW, PRESTON

CO-ORDINATED SAMPLING SCHEDULE

MAY – AUGUST 2006

Week Commencing	Survey No. 604006 Salad	Survey No. 604007 LACORS STUDY 28 Shopping basket Listeria	Survey No. 604008 Shellfish	Survey No. 604010 LACORS STUDY 29 Mobile vendors	Survey No. 404010 * LACORS STUDY 26 CLASSP Raw chicken	Survey No. 604003 * HPA/VTRI Raw chicken LANCS ONLY	Survey No. 504014 TSA Eggs	Survey No. 604009 Local Initiative	Dairy samples
May 1 /	D	A	C		B	B	C	A	B
8 /	A	B	D		C	C		B	C
15 /	B	C	A		D	D		C	D
22 /	C	D	B		A	A		D	A
29 /	D	A	C		B	B	D	A	B
June 5 /	A	B		D	C	C		B	C
12 /	B	C		A	D	D		C	D
19 /	C	D		B	A	A		D	A
26 /	D	A		C	B	B	A	A	B
July 3 /	A	B		D	C	C		B	C
10 /	B	C		A	D	D		C	D
17 /	C	D		B	A	A		D	A
24 /	D	A		C	B	B	B	A	B
31 /	A	B		D	C	C		B	C
Aug 7 /	B	C		A	D	D		C	D
14 /	C	D		B	A	A		D	A
21 /	D	A		C	B	B	C	A	B
28 /	A	B		D	C	C		B	C

* Lancashire FOG - sample submitted for Survey 404010 will also be suitable for one of the two samples required for Survey 604003(see sampling protocol)

Group	Authority
A	Blackpool, Burnley, Lancaster, Preston, Bury, Manchester, Bolton
B	Barrow, Blackburn, Fylde, Pendle, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford
C	Ribble Valley, South Lakes, South Ribble, West Lancs, Stockport, Tameside
D	Chorley, Hyndburn, Rossendale, Wyre, Trafford, Wigan

LANCASHIRE FOG/GREATER MANCHESTER FLG/FEMS – NW, PRESTON

CO-ORDINATED SAMPLING SCHEDULE

September - December 2006

Week Commencing	Survey No. 604013 Sliced Cooked Meat	Survey No. 604007 LACORS Study 28 Shopping basket Listeria	Survey No. 604010 LACORS Study 29 Mobile vendors	Survey No. 404010* LACORS Study 26 CLASSP Raw chicken	Survey No. 604003 HPA/VTRI Raw chicken Lancs only	Survey No. 504014 FSA Eggs	Survey No. 604009 Local initiative	Dairy samples	
September	4	B	C	A	D	D	D	C	D
	11	C	D	B	A	A		D	A
	18	D	A	C	B	B	A	A	B
	25	A	B	D	C	C		B	C
October	2	B	C	A	D	D	B	C	D
	9	C	D	B	A	A		D	A
	16	D	A	C	B	B	C	A	B
	23	A	B	D	C	C		B	C
	30	B	C	A	D	D	D	C	D
November	6	C	D	B	A	A		D	A
	13	D	A	C	B	B		A	B
	20	A	B	D	C	C		B	C
	27	B	C	A	D	D		C	D
December	4	C	D		A	A		D	A
	11	D	A		B	B		A	B
	18	A	B		C	C		B	C
	25								
January	1	B	C		D	D		C	D

* Lancashire FOG - sample submitted for Survey 404010 will also be suitable for one of the two samples required for Survey 604003(see sampling protocol)

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A	Blackpool, Burnley, Lancaster, Preston, Bury, Manchester, Bolton
B	Barrow, Blackburn, Fylde, Pendle, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford
C	Ribble Valley, South Lakes, South Ribble, West Lancs, Stockport, Tameside
D	Chorley, Hyndburn, Rossendale, Wyre, Trafford, Wigan