



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Legislation and the Food Industry

Unit code: F6VK 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to recognise the significant impact that government policy and legislation has for the food industry, both in terms of how food businesses operate and the products they make. It also enables candidates to consider the implications that government policy, for example on health, may have on the food industry. It will help candidates to assess the implications of legislation and other government activities for organisations and how organisations can respond to the demands which legislation imposes upon them.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Explain the implications of legislation and food policy for organisations in the food industry.
- 2 Explain the implications of the enforcement of legislation for organisations in the food industry.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre.

Core Skills: There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components in this Unit. However, there are opportunities to develop the Core Skills components of *Communication*: Written Communication (Reading) at SCQF level 6; Written Communication (Writing) at SCQF level 5; *Problem Solving* (Critical Thinking) at SCQF level 5 and *Working with Others* (Working Co-operatively with Others) at SCQF level 5.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed in the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes. This Unit is an optional Unit in the HNC Food Science and Technology.

Assessment: This Unit could be assessed in a variety of ways. For example, assessment could consist of a report on the implications for organisations in the food industry of legislation, government policy and enforcement of legislation. Candidates could refer to a particular part of legislation, policy or enforcement or they could consider the implications a broad area such as a specific Act of Parliament.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Please refer to *Knowledge and/or Skills for the Unit* and *Evidence Requirements for the Unit* after the Outcomes.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Explain the implications of legislation and government policy for organisations in the food industry

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Food safety legislation
- ◆ Food standards
- ◆ Weights and measures
- ◆ Government policy on food and health

Outcome 2

Explain the implications of the enforcement of legislation for organisations in the food industry

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Food Standards Agency
- ◆ Enforcement agencies
- ◆ Enforcement options

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Candidates will need to provide written/oral evidence to meet all the Knowledge and/or Skills items by showing that they can assess implications for the food industry of legislation, government policy and enforcement of legislation.

The evidence must meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Include **one** example of legislation related to each of food safety, food standards and weights and measures; the examples should be taken from current legislation but may relate to one aspect of a particular item of legislation
- ◆ Cover **one** example of government policy on food and health
- ◆ Cover **one** example of the work of the food standards agency
- ◆ Include **two** examples of the work of enforcement agencies and **two** examples of the operation of enforcement options
- ◆ Make an explicit link between specific aspects of legislation, policy or enforcement and the possible implications for organisations in the food industry
- ◆ Indicate at least **two** possible implications in each case and illustrate each of them with a current and relevant example of organisations in the food industry
- ◆ Explain the importance of the implications for the organisation: this explanation should make some reference to action which the organisation may take in response to the legislation, policy or enforcement

Each aspect of legislation, policy or enforcement should be accurately referenced.

Assessment Guidelines for the Unit

This Unit could be assessed in a variety of methods. For example, candidates could be asked to report on the implications for organisations in the food industry of legislation, government policy and enforcement of legislation. Candidates could be given different examples of legislation to encourage them to undertake their own research. Candidates could produce either a separate report for their assessment of each aspect of legislation, policy or enforcement or they could combine their assessments together in a single report. The evidence should include referencing where appropriate.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F6VK 34
Unit title: Legislation and the Food Industry
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Legislation and the Food Industry

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is an optional Unit in HNC in Food Science and Technology. Legislation affects the way in which food processing operations are carried out and it also influences the products which the industry produces. The Unit should enable candidates to realise the vital importance of legislation to the food industry and for them to appreciate that it has important implications for organisations in the industry.

Food processing organisations are subject to legislation such as health and safety which affects all organisations. In this regard the implications for them are similar to those for other organisations. However, the general health of the population is one of the major concerns of governments and the relationship between food and health means that legislation is of greater importance for the food industry than for many other industries.

Government policy may also impact on the food industry, particularly the products that it makes and the way in which they are marketed. This policy may not always be backed with legislation but it may still have implications for the food industry. Government policy to encourage people to follow a healthier diet, for example, may have implications for the attitudes of consumers. They may, for example, expect food manufacturers to use ingredients which are compatible with the policy even though there is no legal requirement to do so. Food producing organisations which do not do this could, perhaps, encounter adverse publicity as a result.

The emphasis of this Unit is on the implications of legislation, policy and enforcement for organisations in the food industry. It covers legislation from all sources that might have an impact on the food industry, including that originating through the European Union. It may help candidates if they are given an introduction to the legislative process and to the various sources of legislation such as the Scottish Parliament, UK Parliament and the European Union.

Outcome 1 looks at the ways organisations have to take account of legislation and government policy on health and nutrition. Implications can relate to both their operational activities (eg implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and the products they produce). They can include factors such as the costs of meeting legislative requirements, the organisational arrangements required, the possible impact on stakeholders such as suppliers and consumers. Outcome 2 focuses on the implications of the way legislation is enforced, such as the role of inspection as well as implications which may stem from non-compliance, eg fines or disaffected consumers.

Candidates are not expected to examine all aspects of particular pieces of legislation. However, they should become familiar with the main types of legislation and policy which may affect organisations in the food industry. They should also be able to recognise the specific pieces of current legislation and current policy which are relevant at the time they undertake this Unit. When examining implications they should be able to refer to specific aspects of particular items of legislation or policy and indicate precisely how they may influence how organisations should behave.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont.)

Unit title: Legislation and the Food Industry

Candidates should appreciate that legislation can be complex and detailed and that it can, and does, change. They should, as a result of this Unit, develop skills in accessing relevant legislation and policy and reading through it to determine what consequences it might have for organisations in the food industry. This should help them to recognise the importance for organisations of checking legislative requirements and current government policy before making decisions on what to do.

The following gives some indication of content which could be covered in this Unit. Where legislation and/or policy changes, candidates should be encouraged to refer to the most recent versions of the Acts of Parliament and to the most up to date policy measures.

Outcome 1

- ◆ Food Safety Act, 1990 and associated Regulations:
 - food and food sources
 - sale
 - rendering food injurious to health
 - food safety requirements
 - selling to the purchasers prejudice
 - misleading descriptions

- ◆ Food Standards:
 - composition and labelling of food (eg front of pack; traffic lights)
 - chemical safety of food
 - name of food
 - ingredients
 - additives
 - allergies
 - Quantitative Ingredient Description (QUID)
 - Durability
 - Storage conditions
 - Origin/provenance/traceability
 - Manufacturer
 - GM foods

- ◆ Weights and Measures Act 1985:
 - minimum fill system
 - average fill system

Food Hygiene Regulations and associated Regulations including Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)/Food Safety Management Systems.

EC Directives

Approved premises

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont.)

Unit title: Legislation and the Food Industry

Outcome 2

Food Standards Agency: its remit and activities; role of inspection; legislative sanctions such as fines; wider implications such as effects on consumer attitudes.

Environmental Health and consumer protection.

The role of:

- ◆ Environmental Health Officer
- ◆ Food Safety Officer
- ◆ local authorities
- ◆ national enforcement agencies eg Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- ◆ Health Protection Scotland (HPS)

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The delivery of this Unit should aim to encourage candidates to develop skills in investigating legislation and policy which is relevant to organisations in the food industry. This could involve accessing particular pieces of legislation and/or policy through the internet, for example.

Candidates could be asked, for example, to identify key provisions in the legislation the main aspects of policy or the critical aspects of enforcement. It would be possible for candidates to do this by working in groups with each group looking at different items. They could then share the results of their research. Initially, candidates could be given careful and precise direction on what to look for but as they develop expertise the guidance could become more general.

Once candidates are aware of the provisions of legislation, the nature of policy and have gathered information on enforcement, they could then explore the implications for organisations, covering both the operations of organisations and the products they make. This is the focus of this Unit and delivery should try to help candidates understand the importance of legislation without getting bogged down in its detail and complexity. Again, candidates can be given substantial guidance on what implications to look for in the early stages of the Unit. Once they become accustomed to the likely nature of implications the guidance could be more general.

Candidates should be encouraged to take specific aspects of a piece of legislation, or an aspect of importance and work through the implications for organisations. The Food Safety Act, for example, may affect the way in which manufacturing operations are carried out and candidates should draw precise links between specific parts of the legislation and the way it influences factors such as how food is processed and the costs of doing this, with possible further implications for prices and profits. Other implications may cover inspection since this is the main way in which this legislation is enforced. Candidates should consider the implications for organisations of inspection also. These may extend to arrangements for inspections, responding to inspection reports, possible sanctions for breach of legislation and the potential consequences if sanctions are taken such as court appearances, fines and adverse publicity with possible knock-on effects on sales.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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The above approaches allow for both formative and summative assessment to arise naturally out of the delivery of the Unit. For summative assessment for the Unit candidates can be asked to provide a report which looks at the implications of particular items of legislation, government policy and enforcement on the operations of organisations in the food industry. The evidence should include referencing where appropriate. Different candidates could be given different items of legislation, policy and enforcement. It is possible for assessment to look at one aspect of legislation, policy or enforcement. It is not necessary for candidates to look at the implications of all aspects of a particular Act of Parliament for example. It would be acceptable also for candidates to examine the implications of something which is covered by more than one piece of legislation or policy.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

This Unit provides opportunities for candidates to work towards components of three Core Skills: *Communication*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*. The following gives some examples of some of the opportunities for developing these Core Skills which the Unit makes available to candidates.

Communication: Written Communication (Reading) at SCQF level 6

This Unit deals with complicated matters of legislation and policy relating to the food industry. Candidates will be expected as part of their work for this Unit to read documents containing vocabulary which is abstract and may be unfamiliar to them. Policy documents especially related to food and health have a number of different purposes including inform, evaluate and persuade. Legislative requirements are a vital part of the food industry and it is vital that candidates recognise the importance of carefully reading relevant documents as this is a key aspect of ensuring that legislative requirements are met.

Communication: Written Communication (Writing) at SCQF level 5

As part of their work for this Unit, candidates could be expected to present written information on the implications of legislation for organisations. This will require them to highlight the most significant details both of relevant legislation and policy and on the possible impact on organisations. Their work will have to be organised into a logical structure and use appropriate language and sentence construction. This written work could be the product of investigative work carried out by the candidates into aspects of legislation and how they could affect organisations in the food industry.

Problem Solving (Critical Thinking) at SCQF level 5

Candidates taking this Unit will be expected to identify factors which may be involved in a particular situation. This is because they are required to explain the implications of legislation and policy for organisations in the food industry. To do this, also, they will have to identify the relationship between variables and draw some conclusions from this.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Working with Others (Working Co-operatively with Others) at SCQF level 5

This will depend on the methods of delivery adopted for this Unit. The Unit lends itself to group working whereby candidates research legislation and policy relating to the food industry. In order to do this, candidates will need to identify the requirements of the activity and take steps to encourage co-operative working such as behaving appropriately towards others and recognising the contribution that others make.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by Open Learning although candidates should have the opportunity to undertake practical work. Appropriate arrangements would need to be made for assessment and quality assurance.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

General information for candidates

Unit title: Legislation and the Food Industry

This Unit is an optional Unit in the HNC in Food Science and Technology.

It is designed to enable you to recognise the significant impact that government policy and legislation has for organisations in the food industry. This impact can relate to the products that organisations make, the way the products are sold and can also affect the way organisations operate.

The Unit also enables you to consider the implications that government policy (for example regarding health) may have on the food industry. After completing the Unit you will be able to explain the implications of legislation and other government activities for organisations and how organisations can respond to the demands which legislation imposes upon them.

Legislation is particularly important in the food industry. This is because the general health of the population is one of the major concerns of governments and there is a close relationship between food consumption and health. Government policy to encourage people to follow a healthier diet, for example, may have implications for the attitudes of consumers. This may affect the kind of products which food manufacturers produce and the way in which they are marketed.

During the Unit, you will study different aspects of legislation and policy on health and food. The emphasis is on the impact that this has on the food industry. As a result, you will concentrate on the implications that policy and legislation have for organisations in the food industry. You will also look at the ways in which legislation is enforced and the implications that this has for organisations.

The assessment for the Unit will involve you in explaining the implications for organisations in the food industry of legislation, government policy and enforcement of legislation. You will be expected to give some specific examples of legislation, policy and enforcement in your explanation. You will also be required to consider how organisations in the food industry might respond to legislation.

You will have succeeded in meeting all the requirements of this Unit if you pass this assessment.