

Food Grade Code of Practice - What is Food?

Food grade compressed air

With the introduction of the European food hygiene laws and their UK implementation as;

- Statutory Instrument 2013 No. 2996 - The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013
- Scottish Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 3 - The Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006
- Welsh Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 31 (W.5) - The Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2006
- Statutory Rule 2006 No. 3 - The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

Guides to good practice

The European Regulation identifies the usefulness of good practice guides; the BCAS 'Food Grade Compressed Air' is such a code of practice. The BCAS code of practice will enable the food business operator to meet the needs of the law.

Food

Questions asked about the BCAS code of practice include 'when should it be used?' and 'is my process contributing to the food chain?' The fundamental question is 'how does the law define food?'

European law

REGULATION (EC) No 178/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 January 2002

Laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety.

Definition of 'food'

Article 2 - For the purposes of this Regulation, 'food' (or 'foodstuff') means any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans.

'Food' includes drink, chewing gum and any substance, including water, intentionally incorporated into the food during its manufacture, preparation or treatment. It includes water after the point of compliance as defined in Article 6 of Directive 98/83/EC and without prejudice to the requirements of Directives 80/778/EEC and 98/83/EC.

'Food' shall not include:

- a) Feed;
- b) Live animals unless they are prepared for placing on the market for human consumption;
- c) Plants prior to harvesting;
- d) Medicinal products within the meaning of Council Directives 65/65/EEC and 92/73/EEC;
- e) Cosmetics within the meaning of Council Directive 76/768/EEC;
- f) Tobacco and tobacco products within the meaning of Council Directive 89/622/EEC;
Note tobacco products means products for the purpose of smoking, sniffing, sucking or chewing, in as much as they are, even partly, made of tobacco.
- g) Narcotic or psychotropic substances within the meaning of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971;
- h) Residues and contaminants.

For information on food grade compressed air and related topics see Fact Sheet 701.