

General Food Regulation 2004

EC 178/2002 Article 19



CLARICOM
Package Coding Management

The UK **General Food Regulations** 2004 coming into force 1st January 2005 essentially embodies provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 which specifically includes Article 19.

Article 19 (included below) imposes specific obligations on food business operators to act where food is not in compliance with food safety requirements.

Any person found guilty on conviction on indictment shall be liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both.

Further information on the legislation is available at: <http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/si/si2004/20043279.htm>



An implication of the legislative changes will be increased use of FSA Food Alerts. Food Alerts are the Food Standard Agencies (FSA) way of letting local authorities and consumers know about problems associated with food and, in some cases, provide details of specific action to be taken. The new requirement for all withdrawals to be listed on the FSA web site <http://www.food.gov.uk> will increase the profile of withdrawals and with this the inevitable cost to the Brand Owner, and to future sales.

Recent high profile withdrawals with ready meal coding errors from both Sainsbury's and Waitrose are real-life examples of this in action.

A **Claricom Package Coding Management System** can be used to link on-line coding, labelling and barcode validation equipment to centrally managed product data and coding 'rules' to increase accuracy and efficiency.

- Removal of human error, and elimination of package coding errors at source;
- Demonstrable consumer unit product traceability; and
- Demonstrable actions to support requirements for Due Diligence.

For information:

Article 19

1. If a food business operator considers or has reason to believe that a food which it has imported, produced, processed, manufactured or distributed is not in compliance with the food safety requirements, it shall immediately initiate procedures to withdraw the food in question from the market where the food has left the immediate control of that initial food business operator and inform the competent authorities thereof. Where the product may have reached the consumer, the operator shall effectively and accurately inform the consumers of the reason for its withdrawal, and if necessary, recall from consumers products already supplied to them when other measures are not sufficient to achieve a high level of health protection.

2. A food business operator responsible for retail or distribution activities which do not affect the packaging, labelling, safety or integrity of the food shall, within the limits of its respective activities, initiate procedures to withdraw from the market products not in compliance with the food-safety requirements and shall participate in contributing to the safety of the food by passing on relevant information necessary to trace a food, cooperating in the action taken by producers, processors, manufacturers and/or the competent authorities.

3. A food business operator shall immediately inform the competent authorities if it considers or has reason to believe that a food which it has placed on the market may be injurious to human health. Operators shall inform the competent authorities of the action taken to prevent risks to the final consumer and shall not prevent or discourage any person from cooperating, in accordance with national law and legal practice, with the competent authorities, where this may prevent, reduce or eliminate a risk arising from a food.

4. Food business operators shall collaborate with the competent authorities on action taken to avoid or reduce risks posed by a food which they supply or have supplied.

Claricom Package Coding Management Systems are proven to remove human error.
Customers include: Cadbury, Dairy Crest, Geest, Hazlewoods (Greencore), Northern Foods and more.

For more information on Package Coding Management Systems contact Claricom. www.claricom.com

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