

Food Hygiene Rating scheme - how your rating is calculated

Your inspection

At inspection, the food safety officer will check how well you are meeting the law on food hygiene. Three areas will be assessed. These are:

- how hygienically the food is handled – how it is prepared, cooked, cooled, stored, and what measures are taken to prevent food being contaminated with bacteria
- the condition of the structure of the premises including cleanliness, layout, lighting, ventilation, equipment and other facilities
- how you manage and record what you do to make sure food is safe using a system like Safer food, better business

You will be given a score for each area – see below. Food safety officers use guidance to determine how to score each of these areas.

Criteria	Score					
How hygienically the food is handled	0	5	10	15	20	25
Condition of structure	0	5	10	15	20	25
How you manage and document food safety	0	5	10		20	30
Total score	0	—————▶				80
Level of compliance	High	—————▶				Low

Your food hygiene rating

The rating given depends on how well the business does overall – the total score. It also depends on the area(s) that need improving the most - the business may do better in some areas and less well in others.

To get the top rating, you must score no more than 5 in each of the three areas. All businesses should be able to get the top rating. You will automatically get a new rating at each planned inspection.

Total score	0 – 15	20	25 – 30	35 – 40	45 – 50	> 50
Highest permitted individual score	5	10	10	15	20	-
Rating						

Improving your food hygiene rating

The Food Standards Agency has a range of tools, such as Safer food, better business, that can help you manage food hygiene and keep your customers.



Safer food, better business

Check these out at www.food.gov.uk/goodbusiness

To get the best possible rating, here's what you can do now:

- Look at your last food hygiene inspection report to check that you've taken all of the actions needed to ensure that you meet legal requirements. If you can't find your last report, contact us and we will be able to give you a copy.
- At your next inspection, if you don't get the top rating and you have queries about the improvements you need to make to get a better rating, then the food safety officer should be able to give you advice.
- Make sure that you and your staff continue to comply fully with all aspects of food hygiene law.