

14 February 2006

FDF Response to Defra's Consultation on Proposed Minimum Qualifications for Handlers of Ozone-depleting Substances under Regulation (EC) No. 2037/2000

FDF welcomes the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

A brief description of FDF is given at Annex 1.

Detail

FDF is fully supportive of the proposals for minimum qualifications as detailed in the consultation document in that they appear to strike the right balance between externally awarded and in-house training schemes for each activity/sector. As noted in the consultation, most personnel working in these areas who require qualifications already hold them. However, the proposal for a transitional period of 6 months to allow unqualified personnel to continue to work whilst gaining the qualification is a sensible provision and is therefore welcomed.

FDF offers its support to Defra in working to implement the Regulations and in the development of further guidance documents in this area.

Annex 1

The UK Food and Drink Manufacturing Industry

The Food and Drink Federation (FDF) represents the food and drink manufacturing industry, the largest manufacturing sector in the UK, employing over 500,000 people. The industry's annual turnover is over £69bn. It purchases some £11bn worth (about two thirds) of UK agricultural produce and imports a further £21bn worth of food and drink products, of which £46bn is unprocessed and £10bn is lightly processed. UK food and drink exports in 2004 were almost £10bn.

The following Associations are members of the Food and Drink Federation:

ABIM	Association of Bakery Ingredient Manufacturers
ACFM	Association of Cereal Food Manufacturers
BCA	British Coffee Association
BCCCA	Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Association
BOBMA	British Oats and Barley Millers Association
BSIA	British Starch Industry Association
CFA	Chilled Food Association
CIMA	Cereal Ingredient Manufacturers' Association
EMMA	European Malt Product Manufacturers' Association
FA	Food Association
FOB	Federation of Bakers
FPA	Food Processors' Association
GPA	General Products Association
ICF	Ice Cream Federation
IDFA	Infant and Dietetic Foods Association
MSA	Margarine and Spreads Association
NABIM	National Association of British and Irish Millers
NACM	National Association of Cider Makers
SB	Sugar Bureau
SIBA	Society of Independent Brewers
SMA	Salt Manufacturers' Association
SNACMA	Snack, Nut and Crisp Manufacturers' Association
SPA	Soya Protein Association
SSA	Seasoning and Spice Association
UKAMBY	UK Association of Manufacturers of Bakers' Yeast
UKTA	UK Tea Association

Within FDF there are the following sectoral organisations:

FF	Frozen Food Group
LDT	Lifestyle and Dietary Trends Group
MG	Meat Group
ORG	Organic Food and Drink Manufacturers' Group
SG	Seafood Group
VEG	Vegetarian and Meat Free Industry Group
YOG	Yoghurt and Chilled Dessert Group