

# Food

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## FOOD SAFETY FRAMEWORK

**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**

### Objective

To provide the basis for assurance of a high level of health and consumer protection in relation to food, while ensuring the functioning of the internal market. It establishes the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

### Relevance for the hospitality industry

The Regulation is relevant to the sector because it lays down the general principles of food law, which aim to ensure food safety throughout the chain of production and distribution to actual consumption at the dinner table – from “farm to fork”.

Under the traceability requirement, food service operators, including restaurants, have to maintain records of their purchases of food, which shall be made available to the authorities on request.

### State of progress

Adopted on 28 January 2002. Entered into force on 1 January 2005. The EFSA started its operations on 1 January 2002.

### Content

Regulation 178/2002 is the centrepiece of the Commission’s strategy for a food policy covering the entire food chain, from the “farm to the fork”. It provides the general principles and requirements applicable to all food legislation. Some of the key provisions concern issues such as: risk analysis, transparency, responsibility of food operators, traceability and presentation of food. Where new EU proposals are drafted in relation to food policy, this legislation provides the basic principles, definitions and orientation for doing so.

The Regulation sets up the European Food Safety Authority as the key instrument in achieving the new food law directives and regulations. The mission of the Food Authority is to provide the EU with an independent scientific and technical advice, to support policy and legislation in all areas with a direct or indirect impact on food safety. EFSA’s work covers all stages of food production and supply, from primary production to the supply of food to consumers. EFSA also gives scientific advice on non-food and feed GMOs as well as on nutrition in relation to EU legislation.

Regulation 178/2002 also establishes another important body: the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health. The Standing Committee is composed of representatives of the Member States and it is chaired by the European Commission. Its task is to assist the Commission in the development of food safety measures, adopting detailed rules for the implementation of EU food law.

For a detailed summary of the Regulation (and related texts) you can visit the [SCADPlus](#) website (European Commission).

## HOTREC position

HOTREC regrets that the Regulation amalgamates restaurant services to retail trade in the same definition. HOTREC asked for a clear distinction in the definitions between retail trade and restaurant/catering sector as they do operate very differently and have different contacts/relationships with customers.

See also:

EMRA, FERCO and HOTREC [leaflet](#) “Restaurants serve meals, retailers sell food” (January, 2003)

## Official references

Regulation (EC) No [1642/2003](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 amending Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 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, O.J. L 245/4 of 29.09.2003

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, O.J. L 31 of 01.02.2002

See also:

Implementation Guidance Document of Regulation 178/2002 on general food law, 20 December 2004, available on the DG SANCO [website](#)

White Paper on Food Safety, 12 January 2000 ([COM\(1999\) 719 final](#))

European Food Safety Authority [website](#)

Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health [website](#)