



Important News

A SAFETY 'FIRST' FOR THE BRITISH FROZEN FOOD FEDERATION

We are delighted to inform our members that the British Frozen Food Federation, has formed a unique partnership agreement with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in the Midlands and the Local Authority (LA) in Boston, Lincolnshire. This partnership is part of the Lead Authority Partnership scheme (LAPS) and is the first three-way agreement in the UK between the HSE, the LA and a trade association.

The Lead Authority Partnership Scheme

The Lead Authority Partnership Scheme was established as part of the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) strategy to improve future standards of workplace health and safety. This strategy envisaged a significant change in how the enforcing authorities - HSE and LA - work together with the emphasis on developing closer partnerships to encourage consistency of enforcement.

LAPS partnerships are mainly formed between a LA (which becomes the Lead Authority) and a business, organisation or intermediary group with multiple outlets across the country or a national membership. The Lead Authority works closely with that organisation to help develop and improve its health and safety arrangements and/or the guidance and advice it promotes through its membership. The Lead Authority then acts as a focal point of liaison on health and safety issues between other LA's, the HSE and that organisation.

Due to the diversity of BFFF's membership profile, our members are involved with the LA, the HSE or even both enforcing authorities for health and safety depending on their individual business profile. Subsequently we have formed this unique partnership agreement to include both the LA and the HSE.

For further information on the Lead Authority Partnership scheme visit www.bfff.co.uk/LAPS.pdf

For further information on the Enforcing Authorities visit www.bfff.co.uk/HSEnforcement.pdf

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How will our partnership benefit BFFF members?

This agreement will involve BFFF working in partnership with the HSE and the LA in order to promote health and safety within the frozen food industry and to provide members with up to date and relevant health and safety information.

The main objectives of our partnership agreement are:

1. To provide BFFF with comments on guidance which the Federation has produced.
2. To provide BFFF with information about enforcement action taken in the frozen food industry
3. To provide BFFF with advice/guidance on industry wide technical and management issues (with the proviso that only courts can interpret legislation)
4. To provide BFFF with information on matters of evident concern or issues arising from accident investigation or inspections which may be relevant to other Federation members
5. To provide BFFF with information relating to current and forthcoming campaigns and legislation relevant to the frozen food industry

BFFF will meet with our partners once per quarter and our next meeting will take place on the 10th April 2007. This forum provides our members with a unique platform to raise anonymously, industry wide health and safety issues for discussion.

Please do contact Joanna Hancock at the Federation office on 01476 515300 or joannahancock@bfff.co.uk if you have any relevant points to raise or would like to discuss any of the above in more detail.

BFFF
5th February 2007