

Natasha's Law

Natasha's law is a new allergen legislation from 1st October 2021. It has been introduced to protect allergy sufferers and give them confidence in the food they buy

This law applies to ANY food business that produces PPDS food, primary, special & secondary schools, Colleges, universities, and nurseries that provide food.

PPDS food (Prepacked for direct sale) is food that is packaged at the same place it is offered or sold to consumers. It is a single item, consisting of the food and its packaging, that is ready for presentation to the consumer before it is ordered or selected.

The changes mean that food **made and packaged** before the consumer orders or selects them and sold on the **same** premises (or a site with more than one selling location) will require the PPDS labelling.

For schools the new labelling will be required for foods such as sandwiches, wraps, pizza, fruit pots, breakfast pots, packaged salads, wrapped burgers, rolls and any food that has been packaged in anticipation of the service rush.

If food is **not** prepacked this labelling is not required as they are not classed as PPDS (Prepacked for direct sale)

Unpackaged cakes, unpackaged food held behind a glass display or in a hot cupboard and meals made or plated to order are not classed as PPDS food so will only require the labelling to meet the current allergen information.

Schools may decide to buy in pre-packed food that was packed by another food business at a different site to where it is being offered to consumers. These foods are Prepacked so would only require a label with a name, ingredient list, allergens, and other mandatory details.

School packed lunches

If these are made and packed to order (they have been ordered in advance) they do not class as prepacked and therefore do not require PPDS labelling.

If however, they are made and packed without a specific order from a child or adult then these do need to comply with the new PPDS labelling.

If you have multiple items in a packed lunch not pre ordered, then a PPDA label is required for each item.

Any prepacked items that have been brought in from elsewhere produced & (packed at a different location) will already have the full PPDS labelling in place.

Frequently asked questions from schools about PPDS labelling

Do the PPDS changes affect school meals that are plated to order?

No. If you are plating food (not prepacked before the point that it is ordered) there is no need to list ingredients. You must be able to provide information, in writing or orally, on the presence of any allergens in the food you are serving.

Do the PPDS changes affect packed lunches?

PPDS allergen labelling changes only affect food that is packed and sold or offered at your site.

If the lunches are packed to order, these are not prepacked, and are therefore not PPDS.

If, however, the school lunches are packed without specific orders from individual children, then these would need to comply with the new PPDS labelling requirements.

Do the PPDS changes affect school meals ordered by parents on a menu cycle?

This would not be considered PPDS if the food has been ordered before being packaged for the individual. You should continue to make allergen information available to parents and students as you do now.

However, if parents are paying for food in advance and have not made specific orders, the food could be considered PPDS depending on if and how it is packaged before being chosen by a student.

Do the PPDS changes affect prepacked tuck that is provided to younger years pupils by the school?

It is understandable that pupils at the younger end of school may not be able to make informed decisions about the food provided to them and that schools will currently have a safeguarding responsibility in respect of this.

However, the changes to PPDS labelling mean that any food that is packed on the same site before being ordered by the consumer will need to provide PPDS labelling.

Schools may currently manage this through school health records or catering staff who are aware of pupils' allergen requirements.

Do I need to label food wrapped in cling film?

If the food is completely or partially enclosed by cling film or other packaging before it is ordered (and is ready for presentation to the consumer), and the food cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging, it is PPDS food.

If an item is removed from cling film before it is presented to the consumer then this is not PPDS food. This is non-prepacked food and so allergen information must be provided in some form.

Do I need to label food items if they are sold loose?

Loose food which is not sold in packaging does not require a label. It must meet current allergen information requirements for non-prepacked food.

Do I need to label food if I prepare and wrap food and keep it under a hot lamp before it is ordered?

If you prepack food in anticipation of consumer orders, these products will require PPDS labelling.

Do I need to provide labels for a salad bar or self-service buffet?

If the salad is packaged before being ordered, it would require a PPDS food label. However, if the salad bar is self-service, and the student plates it onto a plate or into a box themselves this is non-prepacked food.

Allergen information for non-prepacked food can be communicated through a variety of means to suit your business model. You are required to provide information about the

use of the 14 allergens if they are present in a food. You are not required to provide a full ingredients list.

If I display allergen information on a menu or on our website to inform parents, do I still need to label PPDS food?

Yes, using an allergen information sheet is not a substitute for PPDS food labelling.

PPDS food will still require a full ingredients list and allergen information on the label.

Do hot drinks, such as tea or coffee, require PPDS labelling?

Hot drinks made to order are not PPDS and do not require PPDS labelling.

But if you pour and lid drinks before consumers order them, in anticipation of a rush, the drinks would be PPDS and would need labelling.