

**22 September 2011**

Dear Colleague/Stakeholder,

**Invitation for Stakeholders to a Meeting on the Implementation of the new Nitrates (in vegetables) Legislation**

As you may be aware, European Commission proposals for permanent increases to some of the existing limits for spinach and lettuce laid down in Commission Regulation No. (EC) 1881/2006 were agreed in July this year. The new Regulation is expected to come into force later this year – after publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. Limits that are being introduced for rocket (rucola) will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

A summary of the changes can be found in the FSA Interested Parties letter dated 16/09/2011 together with a copy of the draft Regulation. A copy is attached to this letter for ease of reference.

The Food Standards Agency is committed to continuing its engagement with external partners to identify any impacts resulting from this new legislation. This will help inform the development of an impact assessment required for domestic implementation in the UK. The Agency, therefore, intends to convene a meeting to discuss with you issues in relation to this subject, including:

- Specific impact on industry (including growers, importers and retailers) regarding the new limits set for rocket;
- Issues surrounding the analysis of nitrate in leafy vegetables
- update from industry on work to investigate factors involved in reducing nitrate levels in rocket

We would welcome further suggestions for other issues that you may wish to raise during the meeting.

Possible dates under consideration for this proposed meeting are:

- Week commencing **17 October, 2011, am/pm**
- Week commencing **24 October, 2011 am/pm**

The meeting shall be held at The FSA Head Office, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, Holborn, London WC2B 6NH.

Aviation House  
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London WC2B 6NH  
T 020 7276 8716  
E [jonathan.briggs@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.briggs@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

It would be very much appreciated if you could advise on:

- whether you would wish to attend, and if so,
- your availability during the above-stated selected periods.

Responses may be sent to: Mr. Shanoor Ali at:

[shanoor.ali@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:shanoor.ali@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk) and copied to Toni Gray at:  
[toni.gray@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:toni.gray@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk) not later than **Wednesday 05 October, 2011**.

Full details of the Agenda/Programme for the meeting will be forwarded to attendees in advance of the agreed dates.

Your early response is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Briggs', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonathan Briggs  
Chemical Safety Division

