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Food Allergy Declarations

Dear Colleague

The rules regarding the labelling of allergenic ingredients have recently changed with the new EU Legislation Directive 2003/89/EC amending Directive 2000/13/EC. The legislation "establishes a list of specified ingredients for which ingredients listing exemption should not apply because of a link with allergy/intolerance."

The Regulations set out new labelling rules on the indication of ingredients, particularly allergenic ingredients, in pre-packed foods, including alcoholic drinks.

The ingredients listed in Schedule AA1 of this directive include:

- Cereals containing gluten (namely, wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt, kamut or their hybridised strains)
- Crustaceans
- Fish
- Eggs
- Peanuts
- Soybeans
- Milk
- Nuts (namely, almond, hazelnut, walnut, cashew, pecan nut, Brazil nut, pistachio nut, macadamia nut and Queensland nut)
- Celery
- Mustard
- Sesame seeds
- Sulphur dioxide and sulphites at levels above 10mg/kg or 10mg/litre expressed as SO₂

Directive 2003/89/EC came into force on 26 Nov 2004 and as of 25 Nov 2005, products that do not comply will be prohibited.

FSA guidance on this subject is available at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/allergenukguidance.pdf>

The Statutory Instruments can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2004/20042824.htm>

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ALLERGEN TESTING AT MICROSEARCH

Routine allergen testing

- Groundnut (detection limit of 5ppm(+/-1))
- Fast gluten analysis (detection limit of 50-200ppm)
- Quantitative gluten analysis (detection limit of 5ppm(+/-1))

Other assays

- Almond
- Hazelnut
- Casein
- Ei/Egg protein
- β -Lactoglobulin

OTHER SERVICES OFFERED BY OUR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY AT MICROSEARCH INCLUDE:

- GMO testing:** detection limit of 0.1% (UKAS accredited)
- Meat speciation:** tests for pork, sheep, beef, chicken and turkey DNA (UKAS accredited)

Also available on demand (non UKAS)

- Meat speciation tests for horse, goat and rabbit DNA
- Fish speciation tests for cod, coley, haddock, hake, whiting, pollock, salmon, trout DNA

For any analytical requirements in this area of compliance please contact myself or Mark O'Connor.

Yours Sincerely



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D.O'Connor B.Sc. Ci.Biol M.I.F.S.T.