

Nuts and seeds and new food safety law

Have you registered under the new Food Act? If not, your deadline may be coming up.

If you roast nuts or seeds, make coated nuts, nut bars, or other nut products, you need to register before 31st March 2017.

What's the new Food Act?

The Food Act 2014 is a new law for food safety, which came into effect on 1st March this year. It aims to improve food safety, by adopting a risk-based approach. It sets different rules for different businesses depending on what they do, and focuses on what's most important for food safety. New businesses have to comply straight away, but existing food businesses are changing over to the new rules in stages.

What do you need to do?

The good news is that the new law is based on risk, and is designed to save time and money for lower risk businesses like yours. Those who process nuts and seeds will work under what's called national programme 2, which sets food safety rules for medium to lower risk businesses. You'll need to:

- Register with your local council (if you are based in more than one council area, you can choose to register with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) instead)
- Meet food safety requirements and keep some records
- Get checked by a food safety verifier. This will be once every three years if you are managing food safety well.

Organising a verifier

You'll need to contact one before you register, but you won't be checked straight away. Existing businesses have up to one year to have their first verification. A list of verification agencies is on the MPI website. If you have any trouble organising a verifier, you should contact MPI on info@mpi.govt.nz

What if you do something else?

If you do other food activities, you may need to do something different. Check how the rules apply to you by using the '[where do I fit?](#)' tool on the MPI website. If you just grow nuts or seeds but don't process them, you'll follow a national programme 1 and register by November 2018.

More information:

Visit the Ministry for Primary Industries website: www.mpi.govt.nz/foodact or speak to your local council about registering. Useful resources include:

- [Steps to a national programme 2](#)
- [Top 5 food safety factors](#)

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