



Public Protection (food & safety)

Food Premises Inspection Report

Name of business:	The Mediterranean Restaurant
Address of food business:	121 Magdalen Street Norwich NR3 1LN
Date of inspection:	24/04/2024
Risk rating reference:	24/00197/FOOD
Premises reference:	17/00087/FD_HS
Type of premises:	Restaurant or cafe
Areas inspected:	All
Records examined:	None
Details of samples procured:	None
Summary of action taken:	Informal
General description of business:	Restaurant

Relevant Legislation

Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended)

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 applied by The General Food Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and No 853/2004 applied by Regulation 19 (1) of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and related regulations

Food Information Regulations 2014

What you must do to comply with the law

The report may include **Contraventions** - matters which do not comply with the law . You must address all of the contraventions identified; failure to do so could result in legal action being taken against you.

As a guide, contraventions relating to cleaning, temperature control and poor practice, should be dealt with straight away.

Contraventions relating to structural repairs, your food safety management system and staff training, should be completed within the next 2 months.

Health and safety contraventions should be dealt with within 3 months unless otherwise stated.

To assist you the report may also include **Observations** of current practice, useful **Information, Recommendations** of good practice and reminders of **Legal Requirements** .

My inspection was not intended to identify every contravention of the law and only covers those areas, practices and procedures examined at the time of the inspection. If the report fails to mention a particular matter this does not mean you have necessarily complied with the law.

FOOD SAFETY

How we calculate your Food Hygiene Rating:

The food safety section has been divided into the three areas which you are scored against for the hygiene rating: 1. food hygiene and safety procedures, 2. structural requirements and 3. confidence in management/control procedures. Each section begins with a summary of what was observed and the score you have been given. Details of how these scores combine to produce your overall food hygiene rating are shown in the table.

Compliance Area	You Score					
Food Hygiene and Safety	0	5	10	15	20	25
Structure and Cleaning	0	5	10	15	20	25
Confidence in management & control systems	0	5	10	15	20	30
Your Total score	0 - 15	20	25 - 30	35 - 40	45 - 50	> 50
Your Worst score	5	10	10	15	20	-
Your Rating is	5	4	3	2	1	0

Your Food Hygiene Rating is 3 - a generally satisfactory standard



1. Food Hygiene and Safety

Food hygiene standards are generally satisfactory and maintained. There is evidence of some non-compliance with legal requirements. Some lapses are evident however generally you have satisfactory food handling practices and procedures and adequate control measures to prevent cross-contamination are in place. The contraventions require your attention; although not critical to food safety they may become so if not addressed.
(Score 10)

Contamination risks

Contravention The following exposed food to the general risk of cross-contamination with bacteria or allergens or its physical contamination with dirt, foreign objects or chemicals:

- raw meat was being stored next to ready-to-eat foods i.e moussaka and bread in the walk-in fridge
- the same containers were being used for raw i.e meat and ready-to-eat foods i.e cooked rice
- badly scored cutting boards. However these were replaced with new ones in my presence

Contravention You could not demonstrate effective disinfection of equipment and utensils used for both raw and ready-to-eat foods, either by heat or an adequate dishwasher cycle. Separate equipment and utensils must be provided. Such equipment should be easily identifiable (e.g. colour coded) and must be stored and washed separately.:

- same containers used for raw and ready-to-eat foods

Contravention You could not demonstrate effective heat disinfection of the food equipment and utensils you use for handling both raw and ready-to-eat foods.:

- storage containers

Legal Requirement At all stages of production, processing and distribution, food must be protected from any contamination likely to render it unfit for human consumption, injurious to health or contaminated in such a way that it would be unreasonable to expect it to be consumed in that state.

Information The FSA has issued guidance on controlling *E.coli* 0157 through:

- the complete separation of raw and ready-to-eat food
- the correct use of wash-hand basins and thorough handwashing
- having dedicated equipment (including complex equipment) for raw and ready-to-eat foods
- thorough 2-stage cleaning and the correct use of sanitisers
- and by controlling the risks posed by soil contaminated vegetables.

Visit: www.food.gov.uk for more information

Guidance If equipment and utensils (for example chopping boards, containers and tongs) are to be used for raw and RTE foods, they should be disinfected by heat or an adequate dishwasher cycle (able to reach 82°C for 15 seconds) between uses.

Guidance If adequate heat disinfection (such as a dishwasher or plunge sink) is not possible, separate equipment and utensils should be used for handling raw and RTE foods. Such equipment should be easily identifiable (colour coded) and must be stored and washed separately.

Guidance Equipment, utensils, dishes and wrapping materials used for RTE foods are not to be stored in open storage (i.e. a storage area that cannot be closed) underneath a worktop where preparation of raw foods is undertaken as this could lead to cross-contamination or on the floor.

Recommendation Provide separate equipment and utensils designated for use with either raw or ready-to-eat foods, which can be easily identified (e.g. colour coded) and stored and washed separately.

Recommendation Chopping/cutting boards were being stored directly touching. Chopping/cutting boards must be stored in a rack properly divided to stop cross-contamination and to allow aeration

Hand-washing

Contravention The following indicated that hand-washing was not suitably managed::

- no soap was available
- it takes a very long time for hot water to be produced at the wash hand basin tap

Legal Requirement Wash hand basins must be provided with hot and cold running water and suitable drainage; soap and a hygienic way to dry hands.

Temperature Control

Recommendation The core temperature of cooked and reheated foods should reach 75°C for 30 seconds or an equivalent time and temperature combination.

Unfit food

Contravention The following food was unfit (and was seized or destroyed in my presence) because it was past its USE BY date:

- hummus was being stored beyond its 'Use by' date of 23/4

Legal Requirement Any food which is found at your food premises is presumed to be intended for sale and must comply with the law.

Poor Practices

Contravention The following matters represented poor practice and if allowed to continue may cause food to become contaminated or lead to its deterioration:

- no date labels on prepared foods of when prepared in the walk-in chiller
- milk was being stored beyond its 'Best before' date of 22/4
- food packaging was being stored on the floor

Recommendation You should have a system to identify when open or prepared foods need to be used by or discarded, to ensure the food is fit for consumption. I recommend you apply labels which give a date that is 2 days after the day of production e.g. if food is opened on Monday it should be used by the end of Wednesday (an exception is cooked rice which should not be kept longer than 24 hours)

Guidance It is an offence to use food which is not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the consumer. Food used passed its 'best before' date could be of a reduced quality so you must check it is OK before you use it.

Guidance Lift food off the floor in the walk-in fridge to ensure cooling air can freely circulate

2. Structure and Cleaning

The structure facilities and standard of cleaning and maintenance are of a generally satisfactory standard but there are some repairs and/or improvements which are required in order for you to comply with the law. Pest control and waste disposal provisions are adequate. The contraventions require your attention; although not critical to food safety they may become so if not addressed. **(Score 10)**

Cleaning of Structure

Contravention The following items were dirty and require more frequent and thorough cleaning:

- flooring behind and under equipment
- floor/wall junctions
- wash hand basins
- canopies to extraction fans

Cleaning of Equipment and Food Contact Surfaces

Contravention The following items are dirty and must be cleaned:

- food storage containers
- hand contact surfaces
- soap dispenser
- microwave
- dough mixer
- top to dough mixer
- food containers
- seals to fridges
- handles to walk-in fridge and freezer
- shelving to stainless steel tables
- interior flooring to walk-in fridge
- interior flooring to walk-in freezer
- plastic dish drainer
- grill to chest freezer
- side to chest freezer
- plastic curtain to walk-in fridge
- side to oven
- glass door to drinks fridge in bar

Cleaning Chemicals / Materials / Equipment and Methods

Information You must ensure that the sanitisers you use are effective against bacteria. Ensure that they meet the following standards BS EN 1276:1997 and 13697:2001.

Recommendation Store items such as mops, buckets and rags in an area, room or cupboard separate from a food areas.

Maintenance

Contravention The following items had not been suitably maintained and must be repaired (or replaced):

- seals to display fridge

Facilities and Structural provision

Contravention The following facilities were inadequate and must be improved:

- the grease filters were missing from the canopies

Legal requirement Appropriate filters must be installed immediately to reduce nuisance from odours and avoid grease accumulation in inaccessible parts of the ducting

3. Confidence in Management

There are generally satisfactory food safety controls in place although there is evidence of some non-compliance with the law. The contraventions require your attention; although not critical to food safety they may become so if not addressed. **(Score 10)**

Type of Food Safety Management System Required

Contravention Your documented Food Safety Management System or Safer Food Better Business pack was not available for inspection. As a consequence you could not demonstrate an effective system for managing food safety hazards.:

Contravention The Safe Methods in your Safer Food Better Business (SFBB) pack are intended to show you have identified the hazards to food and what you must do to control them. The following Safe Methods were either missing from your SFBB pack or had not been completed appropriately:

- Cross-contamination
- Cleaning
- Chilling
- Cooking

Contravention The Management sections in your Safer food Better Business (SFBB) pack are intended to demonstrate you are in day-to-day control of the hazards to food. The following Management sections were either missing, incomplete or not up-to-date:

- diary pages not filled in since 18/3/24

Information The absence of any documentation has resulted in a poor score for confidence in management and this, in turn, has had an adverse effect on your Food Hygiene Rating.

Food Hazard Identification and Control

Contravention You have not identified these food hazards or the methods of control at critical points in your operation:

- bacteria growing on food
- bacteria surviving in cooked food
- cross-contamination

Information Before implementing a food safety management system such as Safer Food Better Business, basic good hygiene conditions and practices called prerequisites must be in place. Only then will your food safety management system be effective in ensuring the preparation of safe food.

Traceability

Observation Your records were such that food could easily be traced back to its supplier.

Infection Control / Sickness / Exclusion Policy

Guidance UK Health Security Agency recommends that food handlers known or suspected to be suffering from a food-borne infection or gastrointestinal illness stay away from work until symptom-free for 48 hours.

Waste Food and other Refuse

Observation You had measures in place to dispose of waste food appropriately and were employing the services of an approved waste contractor.

Training

Recommendation A Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering or its equivalent (a 6-hour course leading to the award of a recognised certificate in food hygiene) would be appropriate for your food handlers. Booking details for the equivalent CIEH course are on our website: www.norwich.gov.uk

Recommendation Catering staff should refresh their food hygiene knowledge every 3 years so that they stay up to date with current legislation and good practice. Booking details for this course are on our website: www.norwich.gov.uk