



British Egg Information Service

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Dear Ms Ahmed

Food Standards Agency changes official advice on eggs

You may have seen the recent announcement from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) about a change in the official advice on the safety of eggs for vulnerable groups, including elderly people. The FSA has confirmed that these groups can now eat runny (or even raw) eggs again, as long as the eggs have the British Lion stamp on.

Since the salmonella crisis in 1988, official advice has been that vulnerable groups should avoid raw and lightly cooked (runny) eggs. However, a year-long review by the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) in 2016 confirmed the safety of British Lion eggs.

The use of British Lion eggs is recommended by FSA because the Lion Code of Practice, introduced in 1998, has effectively eliminated Salmonella from British Lion eggs through a comprehensive suite of measures. The Lion Code of Practice covers the entire production chain, incorporating food safety controls above those in current UK and EU legislation, including:

- Hens and eggs guaranteed British
- Hens vaccinated against Salmonella
- Full traceability of hens, eggs and feed
- Stringent feed controls
- Increased hygiene controls and Salmonella testing
- Cool chain from the farm
- Freshness guarantee – best before date stamped on the shell
- Independently audited to the ISO 17065 standard

In addition, the Code of Practice for the Production of Lion Quality Egg Products is the only comprehensive egg processing Code of Practice and adds further stringent food safety and hygiene reassurance, so remember to look for the Lion on egg products such as liquid egg too.

We are aware that some care homes have been avoiding runny eggs, but they will now be able to reintroduce eggs fully on to their menus. Specifying British Lion eggs can help ensure that food businesses meet due diligence requirements for serving vulnerable groups, in line with the new official advice. There are no other schemes currently covered by the new FSA advice.

If you have any questions regarding the new advice, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Kevin Coles