



**RIVER TEES PORT
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

SERVICE PLAN

2017 – 2018

Approved June 2017

INTRODUCTION

This plan details the delivery of the performance of the port health service during 2016/17, which includes the inspection of ships, enforcement of food, feed and environmental protection laws, and the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

The plan goes on to explain how we intend to deliver the service through 2017/18. Also included are the potential impacts to service, which is the exit from the European Union.

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC), manages the port health service on behalf of the other riparian authorities of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Middlesbrough Borough Council and Hartlepool Borough Council.

The port health service operates within the Environmental Health (Commercial) Team of RCBC which is managed by the Principal Environmental Health Officer (Commercial). The Environmental Health (Commercial) Team is part of the Health Protection and Health Care Quality Service in the Public Health Directorate.

Effective partnerships with stakeholders, including Public Health England (PHE) – Consultant in Health Protection / Port Medical Officer and Food Examiner, the appointed Public Analyst and Agricultural Analyst and the Food Standards Agency (the Agency), are important in the achievement of the aims and objectives of the plan.

SERVICE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims

- To ensure that food and feed entering the UK through Tees Port has been legally imported and complies with relevant food and feed laws.
- To ensure that the port maintains its status as a Designated Point of Entry (DPE), Designated Point of Import (DPI) and First Point of Introduction (FPI).
- That conditions on ships entering Tees Port comply with the International Health Regulations 2005.
- Risks to health from communicable diseases are effectively managed and controlled.
- Ensure that food hygiene and standards legislation is enforced in food premises at the port.
- To ensure that environmental protection legislation is enforced within the port.

Objectives

- To carry out manifest and documentary checks relating to third country food, feed and other relevant products.
- To ensure that all imported products are subject to the required legislative requirements.
- To ensure importers and shipping agents are kept informed of import restrictions, changes in legislation, emergency control measures and new guidance.
- To carry out a risk-based approach to the inspection of ships and respond to all requests for ship sanitation certificates.
- To investigate the incidence of food poisoning and food-borne disease at the port and on ships entering the port.
- To monitor the wholesomeness and sufficiency of water supplies at the port and on-board ships entering the port.
- To carry out appropriate food hygiene and standards interventions at the food premises at the port.
- To operate the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme for food premises at the port to improve and maintain good hygiene standards.
- To ensure the prescribed processes at the port comply with environmental protection legislation and permits are issued accordingly.

Performance review 2016-2017

Ship arrivals

A total of 3,843 ships visited the Tees during last year and this is broken down per authority as in the table below. There has been a reduction of 95 ships since 2015/16.

	2016 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total
Hartlepool	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	7
Middlesbrough	12	18	10	14	11	12	12	12	10	10	8	16	145
Redcar & Cleveland	167	170	172	158	158	143	157	155	150	159	145	166	1900
Stockton	131	147	140	154	152	155	152	154	167	155	131	153	1791
Grand Total	310	336	322	329	321	310	322	322	327	324	284	336	3843

Ship inspections

A total of 103 ship sanitation inspections were carried out during 2016/2017. There were 92 exemption certificates issued, 4 control certificates were issued, and 6 routine inspections. The number of inspections is what was expected to be carried out and an increase in 8 on the previous year.

The 4 control certificates issued were due to lack of food safety management procedures, lack of temperature monitoring, evidence of cross contamination between raw and ready to eat food, inadequate cleaning and disinfecting, no water quality analysis or water safety plan available, spoiled food in the refrigerator, and a handwashing station inadequately equipped.

A breakdown of inspection type and authority is listed in the table below.

	2016 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total
Hartlepool												1	1
Exemption												1	1
Middlesbrough	1			1					1	2	1		6
Exemption	1			1					1	2	1		6
Redcar & Cleveland	3	3	2	3	6	5	2	6	3	2	6	4	45
Control		1				1	1				1		4
Exemption	3	2	2	3	6	4	1	5	2	2	5	4	39
Routine								1	1				2
Stockton	4	3	4	6	4	7	5		4	5	6	3	54
Exemption	4	3	3	5	4	6	5		4	4	6	3	47
Routine			1	1		1				1			4
Grand Total	8	6	6	10	10	12	7	6	8	9	13	7	103

Imported Food

A total of 972 consignments of imported food arrived into Teesport during 2016/17. Tea and coffee remain our biggest commodity followed by wine and spirits (mainly Vodka). There appears to be seasonal trends with alcohol with an increase in the run up to Christmas and a drop during summer where people are most likely to go on holiday. There has been a minor reduction (6) in the number of consignments.

All of the imported food comes in via container into the Redcar and Cleveland district.

Food Type	2016 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total
Coffee & Tea	54	59	39	35	41	53	66	50	43	41	34	23	538
Wine	21	37	19	14	10	12	25	23	15	25	17	12	230
Alcohol	6	13	15	6	20	14	15	8	9	8	5	6	125
Oils & Fats	4	1					4			1		19	29
Additives	3	2		2	6	9	2	5	2	2	3		36
Veg - Canned & Processed	1		2			2	1		2	1	1		10
Mineral Water									1			1	2
Veg - Fresh & Frozen inc Salad									2				2
Grand Total	89	112	75	57	77	90	113	86	74	78	60	61	972

Imported Feed

A total of 16 consignments of animal feed were brought into Teesport during 2016/17. Two of these consignments were brought in bulk shipments in quantities of 20,000 tonnes and 50,000 tonnes. Both of the bulk consignments were sampled and found to be satisfactory, documentary checks were carried out on all other imported feed consignments. The number of feed consignments has increased fourfold on the previous year, this is due to PD Ports having registered two new feed storage sheds.

Feed Type	2016 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total
Seeds and fruits			1				1	1	2		1		6
Minerals				1					1	1		1	4
Cereals, grains			1					1				1	3
Complete					1								1
Antioxidants			1										1
Oil seeds and fruits					1								1
Grand Total	0	0	3	1	2	0	1	2	3	1	1	2	16

Imported plastic kitchenware

A total of 39 consignments of plastic kitchenware from China and Hong Kong arrived into Teesport during 2016/17. This was split into 26 Polyamide, and 13 Melamine products.

Row Labels	2016 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total
Satisfactory	5	2	6	3	3	2	4	4	2	2	4	2	39
Polyamide	3	1	5	1	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	0	26
Melamine	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	13
Grand Total	5	2	6	3	3	2	4	4	2	2	4	2	39

All plastic kitchenware is subject to documentary checks and 10 percent are subject to formal sampling. A total of 4 formal samples were taken and all consignments were found to be satisfactory. There has been an increase of 4 on the previous year.

Organic certification

A total of 6 consignments of organic coffee were brought into Teesport during 2016/17. All consignments complied with Organic requirements.

Products of animal origin

Products of animal origin are prohibited to enter Tees Port. There has been no instances of imports of animal origin into Tees Port during the previous 12 months.

Manifest enquiries

The team made enquiries into 384 consignments that entered Tees Port. The majority of the queries (376) were in relation to consignments of used cooking oil that are transferred to Greenergy in Stockton for biofuel use.

Commodity	2016 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total
Used Cooking Oil	29	35	34	35	26	31	43	42	23	33	36	24	376
Cashew Nut Shell			1		1	1	1						4
Guar Gum								2					2
Dry Henna									1				1
Pet Cup (polyethylene)			1										1
Grand Total	29	35	36	35	28	32	44	44	24	33	36	24	384

General enquiries

There were 4 general enquiries during 2016/17. Two relating to bulk feed, one investigation into a Black Widow Spider, and a freedom of information request.

Infectious disease control

We have had no notifications or queries into infectious disease during 2016/2017.

Potable water analysis

Potable water samples are taken both by the request of the ship/agent, or by the officer attending the ship. There has been an increase of 32 samples taken from the previous year.

Row Labels	2016 Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total
SATISFACTORY	9	6	8	5	19	5	8	7	1	13	13	15	109
UNSATISFACTORY	1		6	5	6	2	2	1		3	1	2	29
Grand Total	10	6	14	10	25	7	10	8	1	16	14	11	138

Jetty water analysis

A total of 37 out of 48 jetty points were sampled during 2016/17. These are split between the following authority's. All jetty companies were visited, however, not all jetty points were in use or available at the time.

Authority	No of berths
Stockton	16
Middlesbrough	6
Redcar and Cleveland	25
Hartlepool	1
Grand Total	48

Food hygiene and standards inspections

Of the 5 food premises under the authority's jurisdiction, 2 were subject to both Food Hygiene and Food Standards inspections. One of the food businesses maintained their rating of 5 and the other, a new food business gained a food hygiene rating of 4.

Environmental Protection

All three prescribed processes had their annual inspection during 2016/2017. Ad hoc visits were carried out throughout the year to ensure compliance with permit conditions. No complaints were received relating to any of the permitted processes.

Export certificates

There has been no requests for Export Certification during 2016/2017.

SERVICE DELIVERY 2017-2018

Ship arrivals

Around 4000 ships are expected to pass entrance into Teesport during 2017/2018 including small support vessels, sand dredgers, small cargo ships, LPG tankers, oil tankers, container ship and other specialised vessels.

All ships arriving into the Tees will be entered onto the Flare database and reported to the board on a quarterly basis

Ship inspections

Routine ship inspections will be carried out on a risk based process depending on previous history or intelligence led information. All ships requesting a ship sanitation control/exemption certificate will be visited and an inspection carried out. Requests either come from the shipping agent or from the Captain of the vessel.

Imported Food

All container manifests will be checked for third country food or feed and official controls carried out as per legislative requirements. Risk based inspections of containers will be carried out depending on intelligence or notification from other agencies. Documentary checks, identity checks and physical checks may be carried out.

Port Health officers will ensure they are fully up to date with any new and emerging risks by reading and responding to Food Standards Agency alerts and notifications.

Bulk imported Feed

The authority has an agreement with PD Teesport bulk imports to advise us of any bulk consignments of feed from third countries that enter into Tees Dock. Depending on the type of feed and country of origin, documentary, identity and physical checks will be carried out as per legislative requirements. Ad hoc phone calls and bulk checks are carried out on other potential offloading berths for feed from third countries.

The bulk imports of feed are likely to increase throughout 2017/18 due to the new storage sheds.

Imported plastic kitchenware

Although plastic kitchenware imports have declined over the years since the introduction of the legislation, the authority will carry out all documentary, identity and physical checks as per legislative requirements.

Organic certification

Any products requiring organic certification must provide the original certificate to us for authentication and verification.

Products of animal origin

Products of animal origin from third countries are not allowed to enter into Teesport and any notifications either through manifest checks or other agencies will be dealt with as an illegal import and appropriate action taken to ensure it does not enter the food or feed chain.

Manifest enquiries

During manifest checks, all queries relating to a container will be investigated thoroughly to ensure the contents are legally allowed to enter into the port. These investigations can include a phone call to the importer, copied of the bills of lading and invoices, identity checks of the goods in the container against any paperwork, and physical checks of the goods, for example, sampling and analysis.

General enquiries

We will respond to all enquiries in a timely manner that impacts the importer in the least way possible so as not to interfere with trade or incur any unreasonable costs to the importer.

Infectious disease control

Under the International Health Regulations the Master of a ship has a duty to notify the Port Health Authority of any infectious disease on board. We will investigate any reports of infectious disease and work with the Port Medical Officer in Public Health England to prevent the spread of any infectious disease.

There are no known global health risks of concern at the time of writing this plan.

Potable water analysis

Potable water sampling will be undertaken at the request of ships' masters or shipping agents. Ship waters are analysed for microbiological safety, chemical content and presence of legionella. Requests are charged to the vessel, however should an officer highlight any concerns about a ships water supply, routing samples can be taken and these are free of charge through Public Health England allocations.

Jetty water analysis

There are 48 jetty and dockside water supply points around the port area that are sampled on at least a yearly basis. These points are sampled free of charge for microbiological quality and are paid for through Public Health England allocations.

Food safety inspections

There are 5 food premises within the boundaries of River Tees Port Health Authority. Three of these are programmed to be inspected for food hygiene purposes during 2017/2018.

If a complaint is received about food consumed on the premises, or the condition of the premises itself, an investigation will be carried out.

Food sampling at port premises may be carried out depending on intelligence, local and regional requirements and surveys.

Food Standards Inspections

No food standards inspections are programmed for 2017/2018.

Food standard sampling may be carried out depending on intelligence, local and regional requirements and surveys.

Environmental Protection

There are currently three prescribed processes within our jurisdiction, all of which will be subject to their annual programmed inspection. Any complaints or queries regarding the processes will be investigated by officers.

The prescribed processes generate an income of around £2,217pa, however Defra are currently consulting to increase these by 4.5%. If the increase come into effect, the income will rise to £2,316pa

Export certificates

The conditions permitting the export of products to non-EU countries are set by the importing countries' animal and food health administrations. Products need to be accompanied by Export Certificates to confirm that the conditions have been fulfilled. Export Certificates will be provided where appropriate and at the request of the exporter.

HORIZON SCANNING

BREXIT

On 23rd June 2016, the people of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the EU. The Government triggered Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union on 31 March 2017 to begin the process of exit. The Government plans to negotiate the right deal for the entire UK.

Specific details of the exit from the EU are yet to be determined, however the Prime Minister has set out 12 principles that will guide the government in its process.

The Great Repeal Bill will remove the European Communities Act 1972 from the statute book and convert the 'acquis' – the body of existing EU law – into domestic law. This means that, wherever practical and appropriate, the same rules and laws will apply on the day after we leave the EU as they did before.

This approach will preserve the rights and obligations that already exist in the UK under EU law and provide a secure basis for future changes to our domestic law. This allows businesses to continue trading in the knowledge that the rules will not change significantly overnight and provides fairness to individuals whose rights and obligations will not be subject to sudden change.

Once we have left the EU, Parliament (and, where appropriate, the devolved legislatures) will then be able to decide which elements of that law to keep, amend or repeal.

A White Paper on the Great Repeal Bill will provide more detail in due course.

There will be a phased two year transition period where free trade agreements and new customs agreements will be negotiated, and trade agreements with third countries will also be negotiated.

We do not expect to see a significant impact to the delivery of service from River Tees Port Health Authority and any changes to legislative requirements will be implemented as and when they come into force.