



## **Port Health Service**

# **Sampling Policy**

**2021/22**

Approved June 2021

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. It is the policy of River Tees Port Health Authority (RTPHA) to carry out sampling of food, feed, water and relevant products to protect public and animal health and to ensure fair trade.
- 1.2. All sampling activities will be carried out in accordance with legal requirements, current guidance and the Authority's standard operating procedures. Officers carrying out the sampling will be authorised in accordance with Quality Management System Procedure QSP/EHC/06 and in line with the delegated powers in the Constitution of RTPHA.
- 1.3. RTPHA will ensure that proper officers are appointed to carry out the examination and analysis of food, feed, water and relevant products.
- 1.4. This policy is supported by the Authority's Service Plan which is produced annually in accordance with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food and Feed Law Enforcement.

## **2. Sampling of food, feed and relevant products**

- 2.1. RTPHA will produce an annual sampling plan of which food and feed products should be considered for sampling. However, deviations from the plan will always occur as the sampling of food, feed and relevant products must be determined by the following:
  - a) Requirements of legislation and associated guidance;
  - b) New legislation;
  - c) Trends identified from previous sampling activities;
  - d) Intelligence and risk – the type of product, country of origin, history of compliance of the importer etc.
  - e) FSA alerts;
  - f) Food Standard Agency priorities and;
  - g) Participation in Local, Regional or National Surveys co-ordinated by Public Health England, Association of Port Health Authorities or other agencies.

## **3. Water Sampling**

- 3.1. RTPHA will take samples of drinking water at the request of shipping agents and the port operator. Samples may also be taken for monitoring purposes. Sampling points will include on-board ship supplies and from designated drinking water supply points located within the port. Although the port is served by a mains water supply, they must have provisions in place to prevent backflow to the system when filling ships.

## **4. Analysis and Examination**

- 4.1. All samples of imported products will be formal samples. Samples for analysis will be submitted to the Public/Agricultural Analyst appointed by the Authority and samples for examination will be submitted to the Food Examiner of the Public Health England Laboratory.

- 4.2. Water samples will be informal samples and submitted to the Public Health England Laboratory for examination.
- 4.3. RTPHA will have regard for the opinions of the Food Examiner and Public/Agricultural Analyst for the interpretation of results including all relevant guidance.

## **5. Resources**

- 5.1. All fees charged in relation to food, feed and food contact material sampling is recovered in full from the importer.
- 5.2. All ships water samples are recovered in full from the fees charged to the requester.
- 5.3. All jetty water sampling is carried out using our water analysis allocation by Public Health England.

## **6. Review**

- 6.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and when there are significant changes to legislation, guidance or activities at the port.