

TEMPERATURES IN PLACES WHERE FOOD IS HANDLED

Workroom temperatures in places where food is handled.



- Food Businesses need to ensure that the requirements of food hygiene law are achieved while maintaining a “reasonable temperature” in the workroom.
- Under the Food Hygiene Regulations the temperature of the food should be controlled. Whereas The Health and Safety Law regulates the air temperature of the workroom.
- All food preparation and storage areas must have adequate ventilation either by natural or mechanical means. This is to reduce high humidity, room temperatures, cooking odours and airborne particles.

Health and Safety requirements

Health and safety temperature requirements in open workrooms can be met by:

- The temperature in workrooms can be met by maintaining a “reasonable” temperature throughout the workroom of at least 16°C (or at least 13°C if the work activity involves serious physical effort)
- Food may need to be chilled locally or minimise its exposure to ambient temperature.
- Provide a warm workstation within a workroom where the overall temperature may be lower.

Health and Safety temperature requirements in cold stores can be met by:



- Local heating in vehicle cabs where practicable
- Provide suitable heated rest facilities, (e.g. heated areas) and allow workers ready access to them.
- Suitable protective clothing should be provided and worn (see Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992)
- Institute systems of work to minimise the length of time of exposure to uncomfortable temperatures and through task rotation, allow opportunities for staff to go to heated areas.

Other guidance

For more advice on any temperature related issues in the workplace please contact Karen Spence, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Commercial Group, tel no 020 8489 5592 or email karen.spence@haringey.gov.uk

There is also a Guidance Note Health and Safety at Work in Hot Weather and Hot Environments available from Haringey Council and via Haringey website-

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk>

You may wish to contact the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) information line Tel : 08701 545500 Fax: 01787 881165 or the website address is

<http://www.hse.gov.uk>