APPENDIX B – Extract from Section 2.3.13 of the Food Law, Code of Practice

Extract from the Food Law, Code of Practice, issued by the Food Standards Agency, October 2025, showing the title page and section 2.3.13 showing the necessity for a food sampling policy.

Food Law

Practice Guidance (England)

(Issued October 2025)

Food Standards Agency

2.3.13 Sampling policy

The purpose of the sampling policy is to set out the Competent Authority's approach to food sampling. To support this, it is recommended that Competent Authorities ensure the policy:

- is published and readily available to businesses and consumers
- sets out the Competent Authority's approach in specific situations such as:
    - surveillance
    - imported food monitoring
    - businesses with an inspection plan issued by the primary authority
    - official controls
    - complaints
    - special investigations
    - national, regional, and local co-ordinated programmes
- covers all samples taken
- details the factors taken into account when formulating their sampling programme, including any national or local consumer issues that will influence the level of sampling to be undertaken
- outlines who will undertake the sampling.