

Prepacked for Direct Sale (PPDS) Allergen Labelling Changes for **Fast Food and Takeaway Restaurants**

From **1 October 2021** the requirements for labelling prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) food will change. This applies to any food business that produces PPDS food, including kebab shops, burger restaurants, pizzerias, fried chicken shops, Chinese takeaways, fish and chip shops, and restaurants selling food to go.

Introduction

PPDS food is food that is packaged at the same place it is offered or sold to consumers. It is a single item, consisting of the food and its packaging, that is ready for presentation to the consumer before it is ordered or selected.

The changes mean that food packaged before the consumer orders or selects it, and sold on the same premises (or site where a business operates from more than one location such as a shopping centre) it is packaged at, will require labelling.



For restaurants and takeaways this may mean changes to labelling for foods such as boxed meals, burgers and other products.

Changes to Allergen Labelling

The new labelling requirements will help protect consumers by providing potentially life-saving allergen information on packaging. This legislation is also known as Natasha's Law.

Any food business that produces PPDS food will be required to label it with the name of the food and a full ingredients list. Allergenic ingredients must be emphasised within this list.

This can include food that consumers select themselves, for example from a display unit, as well as products kept behind a counter, or some food sold at mobile or temporary outlets.

Examples of PPDS Food

PPDS food that may be provided by a fast food or takeaway restaurant include:

- Cartons of chips or chicken nuggets, in packaging and placed under a hot lamp
- Breakfast or lunch boxes ready for sale to the final consumer
- Prepacked paninis or boxes of pizza which can be reheated at the consumer's request
- Prepacked sandwiches or salad boxes
- Packaged burgers

Examples of food that is **not** PPDS

PPDS does **not** include food that is not in packaging when the consumer orders it. Food placed into packaging at the consumer's request is not PPDS.

This can include products such as:

- Pizza on display with loose slices served unpackaged on an open tray at consumer request
- An open carton of chips
- Fried chicken that's not boxed under a hot lamp
- Battered fish and sausages in a glass display

Non-prepacked (loose) food does not require a label and must meet current requirements for providing allergen information. This means you must provide information on the 14 major allergens to customers. You have some choice in how you provide this information to them.

Prepacked Food

You may also sell pre-packaged food that was packed at a different site to where it is offered to consumers, or food that has been packaged by another business.

This is not PPDS food, but it still requires a label with a name, ingredients list, allergens and other mandatory details.

Labelling Guidance

Labels on PPDS food need to show the name of the food and the ingredients list.

This includes emphasising in the ingredients list any of the 14 allergens used in the product, as required by food law. Emphasis can be added by using **bold** type, capital letters, contrasting colours or underlined text. This must be clear enough for the consumer to read.

An example PPDS food label is shown here:

PEPPERONI PIZZA

INGREDIENTS: **Wheat** Flour, Mozzarella Full Fat Soft Cheese (**Milk**), Pepperoni [Pork, Durum **Wheat** Semolina, Salt, Garlic, Paprika, Pepper], Tomato Puree, Water, Tomato, Semolina (**Wheat**), Rapeseed Oil, Yeast, Sea Salt, Basil, Sourdough Culture [Malted **Wheat** Flour, **Wheat** Flour], Lemon Juice, Cornflour, Garlic Purée.

Food Sold Online

Food businesses who sell their food online or through other means of distance selling, will already be required to provide allergen information before food is ordered and when it is delivered.

Food sold through distance selling, without physical presence of the consumer during the ordering process, will not be impacted by the new regulations. However, this food will still be subject to requirements for distance selling.

Definition of 'Packaging'

Food is PPDS if it is packaged as follows:

- The food is fully or partly enclosed by the packaging
- The food cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging
- The food is ready for sale to the final consumer

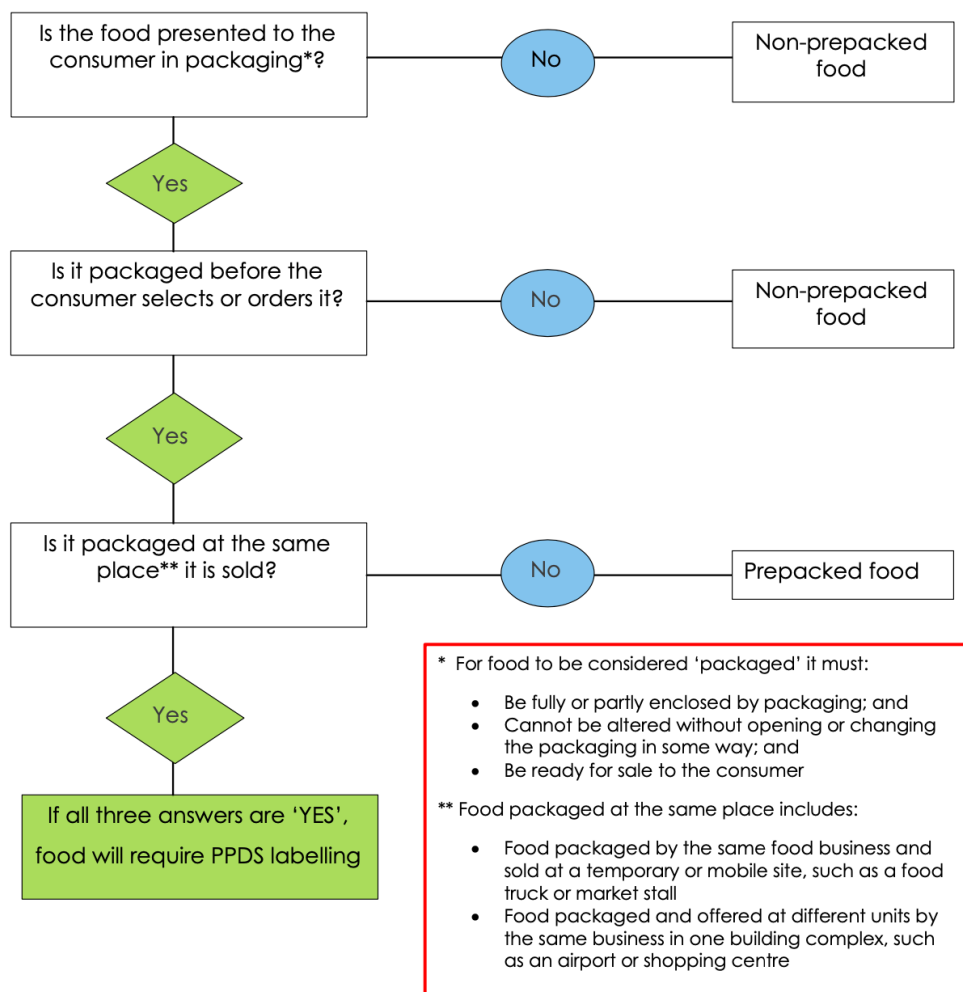
Examples of this kind of packaging would be:

- A cake completely wrapped in cling film
- A sandwich placed in a paper bag with the bag folded over or twisted to encase the sandwich
- Rolls contained in a plastic bag that is tied with a knot or sealed

Food is not PPDS if it does not have packaging, or if it is packaged in a way that the food can be altered without opening or changing the packaging (for example a burger served on an open cardboard tray).

PPDS Flow Chart

If you're still unsure what foods are considered PPDS, you can check using this simple flowchart:



Adapted from: <https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/prepacked-for-direct-sale-ppds-allergen-labelling-changes-for-fast-food-and-takeaway-restaurants-ppds>