

European Union regulations assessed as routine at triage. Those European Union regulations assessed as non-routine at triage would be prioritised for risk analysis as appropriate to the issue.

FFSH risk assessment

5.10 Risk assessment is a scientific process which assesses the risk associated with food or feed and consists of the following steps: (i) hazard identification, (ii) hazard characterisation, (iii) exposure assessment and (iv) risk characterisation. Having robust risk assessment principles in place is important for providing assurance to consumers, businesses, stakeholders and trading partners that risk assessments are carried out appropriately for ensuring public health protection across the UK. Although some capacity for FFSH risk assessment already exists in the UK, much of the risk assessment required for FFSH is currently carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

5.11 A set of FFSH Framework principles for governing risk assessment have been developed. These principles should provide assurance that risk assessments are responsive to the four nation's needs. The FFSH Framework principles proposed to govern risk assessment are:

- There is a four nations representation at each appropriate stage of the risk assessment as needed.
- Risk assessments are undertaken on a UK wide basis, but with capacity for non-UK wide risk assessments where particular issues require single nation approaches (risk assessment done on a UK wide basis could also include nation specific outputs, which would allow for comparison of risk across the four nations).
- Risk assessments are independent, free from undue influence and are carried out according to recognised international principles.
- There is a suitable challenge mechanism in the risk assessment process once we have left the European Union.
- There are appropriate governance arrangements in place for recognising devolved matters in the prioritisation, commissioning and quality assurance of risk assessments.
- The FSA will consult the relevant home nation with regard to any issues, evidence or analysis specific to that nation, with the aim of ensuring that risk assessments properly reflect the situation in the different constituent parts of the UK, as far as the evidence allows.
- There is the capacity for a number of different outputs / approaches where required – this could include:
 - RA undertaken on a UK basis with one UK output.
 - RA undertaken on a UK basis with nation specific outputs.
 - RA undertaken on a single nation basis.
 - RA undertaken for more than one nation but not all four.
- Where nation specific outputs are requested / needed risk assessments will capture any different county specific characteristics, nuances and demographics.