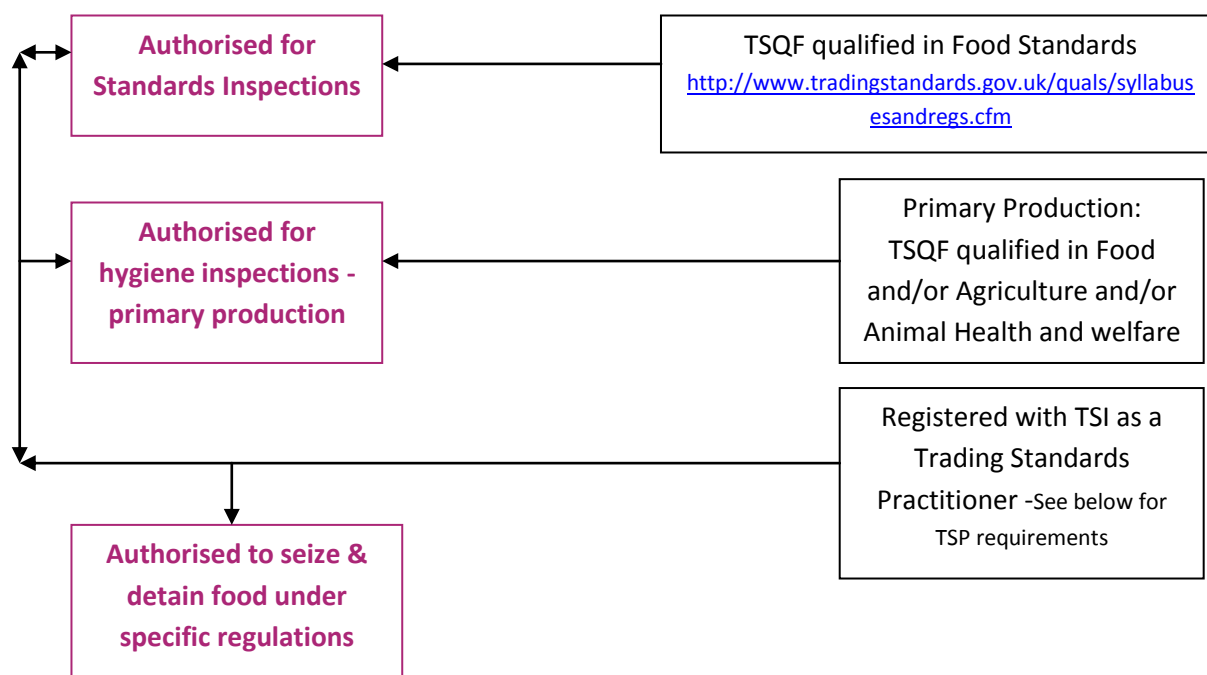


Requirements that apply to Trading Standards



Relevant qualifications are available from various providers / with varying accreditation in different parts of the UK. These qualifications, whilst listed against the country in which they are offered/accredited, are valid throughout the UK.

Chapter 1.2 of the Food Law Code of Practice outlines the qualification and experience requirements for food law enforcement.

- paragraph 1.2.9.1.4 lists the qualifications required to carry out food law enforcement in **food hygiene** including **primary production** (in Scotland, qualifications for Primary Production are in Annex 10.3); and
- paragraph 1.2.9.2.2 lists the qualifications required to carry out food law enforcement in **food standards**.

This document has been produced to enable:

- officers to decide how they can develop their career in food law enforcement; and
- local authorities to decide how they can best utilise existing officers and employ prospective officers.

It does this by clarifying what the relevant qualification requirements are and from which education establishments these qualifications can be acquired.

Primary Production

1. Paragraph 1.2.9.1.4 states that

“Food Authority officers undertaking food hygiene enforcement at the level of primary production, if they do not already hold the qualifications listed above, should hold a:

- Diploma in Trading Standards; or
- Diploma in Consumer Affairs and/or
- Certificate of Competence in Animal Health and Welfare, or
- Certificate of Competence or Foundation Certificate in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (FCATS) or Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (DCATS) or Higher Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (HCATS) with Food and/or Agriculture service module, as appropriate ,and in relation to Primary Production also and/or Animal Health service module; or have equivalent professional experience, or undertake to achieve such qualifications.....”

The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) is the awarding body for The Trading Standards Qualification Framework (TSQF) which includes the above qualifications. Details of their qualifications and from where they are available are below under food standards.

Scotland

Annex 10.3 states that

Food and feed hygiene primary production enforcement is to be carried out at the same time, as far as is practical in relation to the availability of authorised officers. This may be undertaken jointly by an authorised food officer and an authorised feed officer or an officer who is authorised and therefore competent to carry out both functions. This function may be carried out by officers from Environmental Health, or Trading Standards, subject to their competency.

The Lead Officers with responsibility for the enforcement of food and feed hygiene will have joint managerial responsibility for assessing the competency of officers to undertake integrated food and feed hygiene inspections within their Local Authority.

Where an individual officer is authorised to undertake feed and/or food inspections at primary production level, they must meet the qualification requirements for either feed or food inspections (Feed Law Code of Practice¹, Chapter 1.2 or Food Law Code of Practice, Chapter 1.2); and must have satisfied the appropriate lead officer(s) of their competence to undertake the inspection taking into account the intrinsic risks associated with the establishment.

Any formal enforcement action (e.g. service of Notices) may only be undertaken by authorised officers meeting the specific requirements outlined in the Codes i.e. formal enforcement action in relation to feed must only be taken by officers meeting the qualification and experience requirements detailed in the Feed Code and formal enforcement action in relation to food must only be taken by officers meeting the qualification and experience requirements detailed in the Food Code.

¹ A recent addition to the Trading Standards qualifications for primary production is the Module Certificate with Food, Agriculture and/or Animal Health and Welfare service delivery modules (issued by the TSI).

Food Standards

2. Paragraph 1.2.9.2.2 states that

“Officers authorised to undertake food standards official controls, with the exception of sampling (see Section 1.2.7), should hold one of the qualifications, or equivalent qualifications (see Section 1.2.2) as set out in Section 1.2.9.2.2, and be competent to carry out the duties.”

3. Paragraph 1.2.9.2.2 lists the qualifications as follows:

- Diploma in Trading Standards (DTS) or its antecedents;
 - Certificate of Registration of EHRB, the EHORB or REHIS Diploma in Environmental Health (or its antecedents);
 - Diploma in Consumer Affairs (DCA) provided it includes the Food and Agriculture Paper of Part II, or its antecedents;
 - DCA Certificate of Competence in relation to Food and Agriculture issued by the TSI (or its antecedents);
 - Food Certificate in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (Module Certificate in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards in Food Standards);
 - Certificate of Competence or Foundation Certificate in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (FCATS) or Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (DCATS) or Higher Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (HDCATS with or including the food Standards Service Delivery Module
- Higher Certificate in Food Control awarded by EHRB;
- Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection awarded by EHRB or the IFST with an endorsement to include Food Standards Enforcement; and
 - Higher Certificate in Food Standards Inspection issued by SFSORB.

The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) is the awarding body for The Trading Standards Qualification Framework (TSQF) which includes the above qualifications (with the exception of Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection including the Food Standards Endorsement, for which EHRB is the awarding body). They are available as follows:

The other food standards qualifications are available at a number of universities, but these change as universities change the courses that they offer. For an up to date list of universities offering accredited courses see the following Website:

<http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/quals/resourcecentre.cfm>

Scotland

Paragraph 1.2.9.2.1 states that

Certificate of Competence Officers authorised to undertake food standards official controls should hold one of the qualifications or equivalent qualifications (see Paragraph 1.2.2) as set out in Paragraph 1.2.9.2.2, and be competent to carry out the duties.

Paragraph 1.2.9.2.2 list the qualifications as

- The REHIS or EHRB Diploma in Environmental Health (or its antecedents), or Certificate of Registration of EHRB;
- The Higher Certificate in Food Standards Inspection issued by SFSORB;
- The Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection issued by EHORB or the IFST with an endorsement to include Food Standards Enforcement.
- Diploma in Trading Standards (DTS) or its antecedents;
- Diploma in Consumer Affairs (DCA) provided it includes the Food and Agriculture Paper of Part II, or its antecedents;
- a DCA Certificate of Competence in relation to Food and Agriculture (or its antecedents);
- One of the following Trading Standards Qualifications Framework Certificates with the Food Standards service delivery module (issued by TSI): Module Certificate; Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (DCATS);
- Higher Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards (HDCATS) (this certificate must be presented with one of the awards/certificates listed above).

Definitions:

Trading Standards Qualifications Framework (TSQF)

Information to be found at www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/qualifications.

Requirements for becoming a Trading Standards Practitioner (TSP):

- Full member of the Trading Standards Institute.
- Registered with the TSI under the TSP structure or the Trading Standards Qualification Framework.
- National Qualification Framework level 6 qualification (in Scotland a SCQF level 9 qualification).
- Knowledge of Trading Standards (via qualifications which include the Food Standards and/or Agriculture and/or Animal Health and Welfare modules)
- Yearly Continuous Professional Development via the TSI continued professional development scheme.
- Yearly Personal Development Plan