

LBRO

Local Better Regulation Office

The Primary Authority Principle: a new opportunity for importers

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Objectives

- Origins of Primary Authority
- Why Primary Authority Matters
- How it Works
- Primary Authority for Importers

Origins of Primary Authority

- Voluntary Home and Lead Schemes
- Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008
- Pilots
- Primary Authority began on 6th April 2009

Primary Authority matters because...

1. It supports businesses effectively, especially during the recession
2. It encourages better intelligence about a business to enable better targeted action
3. It enables the right interventions to be used for efficiency and to drive compliance

Why using the right interventions matters

- Supermarket bakery example
 - Multi-site retailers and out of code stock
- ...does the 'pin prick' effect achieve consistent regulatory outcomes?

Scope of Primary Authority

- Available to all businesses regulated by more than one local authority for the same issue
- Can cover a wide range of regulatory functions
- Can partner with any local authority or port health authority

Advising the Business

- Understanding the business
- Issuing advice
- Single point for business negotiation
- Notification of enforcement action by other local authorities
- Power to direct against inconsistent action

Inspection Plans

- Influencing regulation of the business nationally
 - Helping other local authorities to understand the business and its risks
 - What needs to be checked
 - What has been checked nationally

Primary Authority IT System

- Share information on the business with all local authorities:
 - Inspection Plans
 - Business procedures
 - Advice to local authorities
- Receive notifications of enforcement action
- Respond to notifications of enforcement action

Resourcing Primary Authority

- Transition of existing effort to Primary Authority may not require cost recovery
- Ability to recover costs

What would Primary Authority Look Like for an Importer?

- Dealing with issues at the point of importation
- Improved consistency between ports

What to do now?

- Identify businesses in your locality that may benefit
- Offer Primary Authority as a service
- Contact LBRO for Support

Further information

- Visit www.lbro.org.uk
- LBRO's statutory operational guidance
- BERR's *Guide to the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008*

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