




Food Law

Food Science & Compliance Solicitors





Our mission is:
*“to help our clients
to successfully grow
their businesses by
reducing the risks
of non-compliance.”*

We are food law specialists

Our clients

We work with food and food-related businesses who want to ensure their products and services comply with the complex regulatory framework relating to food law.



Our clients recognise that there are risks associated with placing non-compliant products on the market, and come to us to ensure that these risks can be safely managed so they can concentrate on developing their business.

We work by supporting and empowering our clients as they grow their businesses by advising and educating in equal measure. We aim to offer a specialist, high quality and value for money service.

Being based at the Norwich Research Park, close to the world-renowned Institute for Food Research, our clients include businesses at all stages of the food chain from those working in food science, product development, food production, manufacturing and retailing.

We have a special niche in advising small to medium artisan producers and start-up businesses with potential for high growth.

Our services

As well as advising on how to comply with food law regulation, we can advise on a range of food law related matters such as labelling, health and nutrition claims, HACCP and traceability.

We provide consultancy services as well as legal ones. So as well as having Trading Standards and Environmental Health officers available to help you, our solicitors can help you deal with any legal issues you may encounter as you grow your food or food-related business. For example, we can help with company, employment or contract matters which may arise as your business grows.



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How we can work for your business

We can provide as much involvement in your business as you require.

We can be on hand to give ad hoc advice by e-mail or phone and deal with supplier or customer disputes.

We can provide you with regular e-mail legal briefings, tailored to your business to ensure that you are kept up to date with changes in food law and policy which may affect you.

We can help you understand the regulatory framework and bring products to market that are fully compliant with food law.

And as we are a law firm regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority we can assure you of complete confidentiality.

If you need advice on a food law compliance issue, we can provide specialist food law advice in any area, such as:

- Label reviews
- Nutrition and Health Claims
- HACCP reviews
- Import advice
- Use of food additives
- Novel foods
- Allergen control
- Microbiological advice
- Layout and design of food establishments



We can help you risk manage your business by

- Reducing the risk of product recalls and enforcement action by undertaking food law compliance audits of your business.
- Provide expert guidance on the design and implementation of HACCP systems.
- Develop and deliver technical training courses and workshops to help your staff to understand and comply with legal requirements.

Accreditations and clients

Our regulator



We are solicitors who are regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. This means that we are bound by its Code of Conduct, and will always act in your best interests, and in the strictest confidence. Your trade secrets are safe with us.

You will receive an excellent level of service by staff who are suitably trained and qualified. We will keep you updated with costs, and can agree fees in advance so you need not worry about unexpected charges.

As a law firm we comply with the requirements of the SRA. If we do not meet these high expectations, and you wish to complain about our service, then we also have the legal Ombudsman to answer to.

Our training



We are also an accredited centre for the provision of hygiene and HACCP courses from level 2 to level 4.

We also provide bespoke and in-house training in the areas of food law, hygiene, standards and food technology. We are happy to deliver these or any of our courses at our offices in Norwich or provide training for your staff on site.

Our clients



As well as our food business clients, we also work for central and local government. We currently provide training on behalf of the Food Standards Agency to food law enforcement officers on areas of food, feed and food standards law.

We have also redeveloped the Food Standards Agency's MyHACCP online development tool for food businesses.



Our people



Dr Andy Bowles BSc, MSc, PhD
Director and Solicitor

I have worked in the field of food safety for over 30 years. I was a manager in the dairy industry, and then moved to local government where I was Acting Head of Environmental Health for a London Borough.

I then became a lecturer in Environmental Health at Middlesex University and the University of Surrey.

I am a solicitor and also hold a PhD in Food Law, an MSc in Microbiology, and BSc degrees in Life Sciences and Environmental Health. I also have postgraduate qualifications in Health and Safety and Acoustics.



Sharon Bowles BSc, LLB, LLM
Director & Principal Solicitor

I co-founded ABC Food Law with Andy in 2012. I qualified as a solicitor in 1999 and have worked in local government, private practice and as an in-house lawyer.

I switched to law after graduating in Psychology, and after my LLB I took an LLM in food law. I am currently completing my MBA degree.

As well as food law I can advise on contract, procurement and general commercial law.



Duncan Harris BA
Senior Food Law Advisor

Before joining ABC Food Law I had nine years' experience working with the food industry and local authorities. I hold a degree in Consumer Protection and have completed the Diploma in Trading Standards.

I was a Senior and Principal Trading Standards Officer for Norfolk County Council. I specialise in food labelling, animal feed and weights and measures.



Andrew Gilden LLB
Food Law Advisor

After obtaining my LLB, I had seven years' experience as a Trading Standards Officer for Norfolk County Council before joining ABC Food Law. I also hold the Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards.

I offer a range of training courses to government and business clients, and provide bespoke advice on food labelling and weights and measures.



Sally Homden BSc
Food Law Advisor

Before joining ABC Food Law I obtained a postgraduate certificate in Professional Learning in Higher Education whilst lecturing at Weston College on the Foundation and BSc Environmental Health degrees and was an Associate Lecturer at the University of West of England.

Before my academic career I practised as an Environmental Health Officer in local authority for 12 years and prior to this I worked in legal services at a local authority. At ABC I specialise in food hygiene and HACCP.



Lynn Gallant BA
Office Manager

I am the first point of contact for ABC Food Law. I manage the ABC office and am administrator for the ABC online training service. I assist the Directors on finance matters, facilities and event management.

I worked for ten years at a legal firm co-ordinating their legal and soft skills training, where I also gained qualifications in Training and Development.



Hanka Obrusnikova
Administrator

I deal with the daily administration of ABC training courses and the preparation of course materials and resources. I also update the ABC website and assist in marketing.

I am originally from the Czech Republic and joined ABC Food Law in July 2015 after working as a Sales administrator and graphic designer for a world leading paper manufacturer.



Aleksandra Tsoncheva LLB
Administrator

I deal with the administration of ABC Food Law courses, the preparation of course materials and client evaluation questionnaire statistics.

I am a recent law graduate from an LLB programme in International and European Union Law from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

Since my graduation I have relocated to the United Kingdom where I started working for ABC Food Law Ltd in February 2016.



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ABC Food Law is an Alternative Business Structure (ABS) regulated by the
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