



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

OFFICIAL CONTROLS FOOD & FOOD SAFETY

Horticulture and Plant Health Division
Niamh Kellaghan, Agricultural Inspector
12 November 2025
Horticulture Industry Forum Meeting

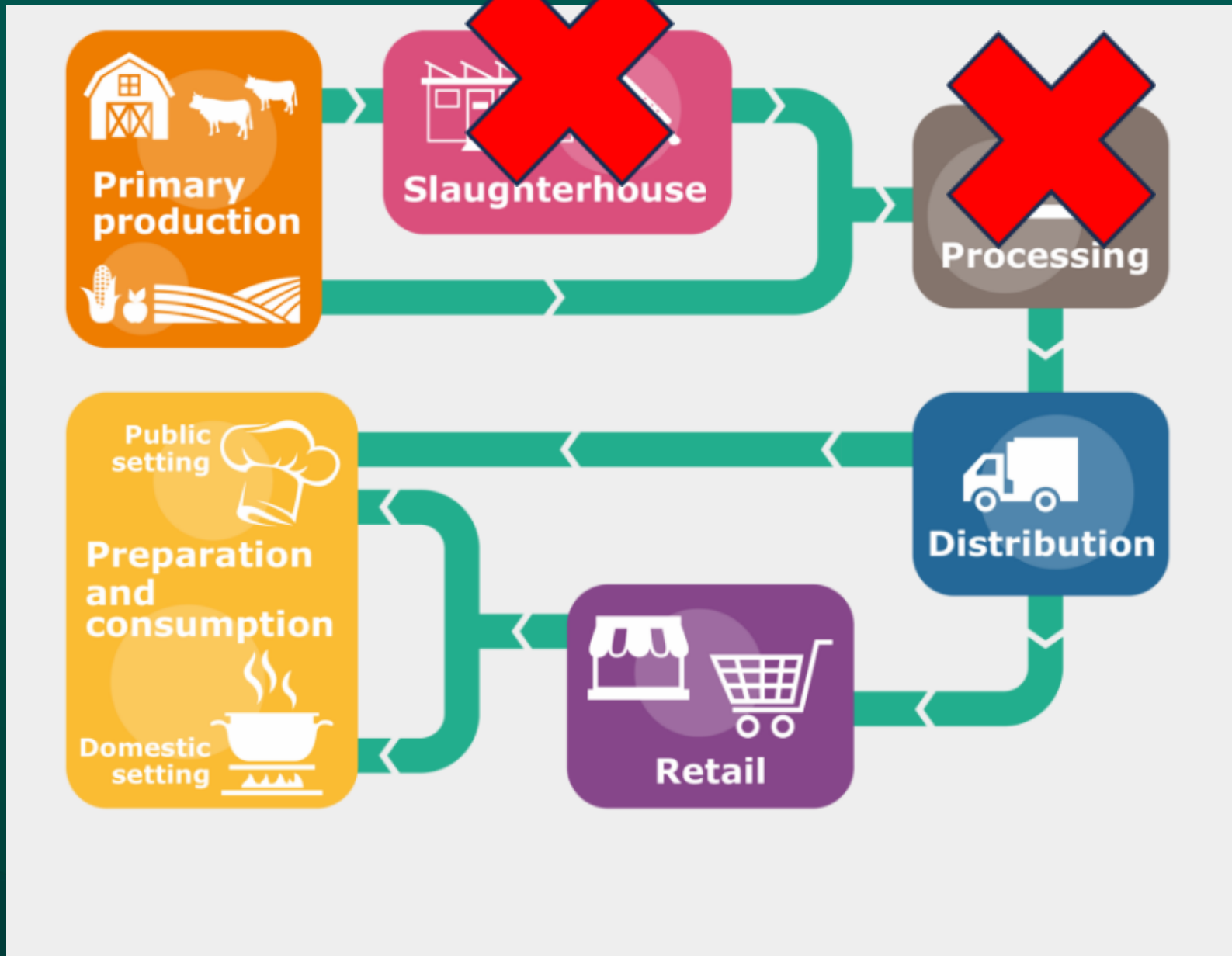
Food Business Operator

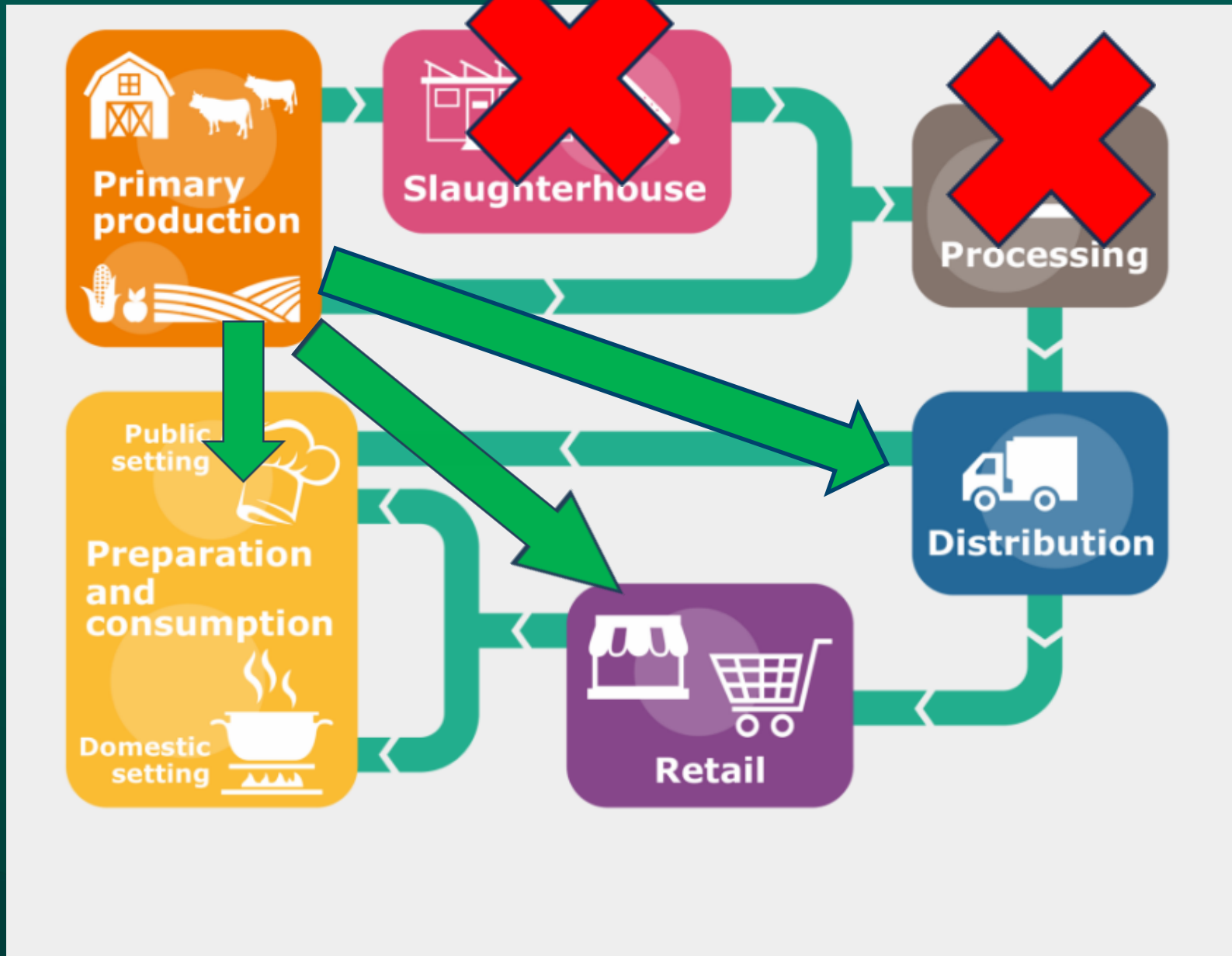


‘food business’ means any undertaking, whether for profit or not and whether public or private, carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of production, processing and distribution of food

‘food business operator’ means the natural or legal persons responsible for ensuring that the requirements of food law are met within the food business under their control







Food Law



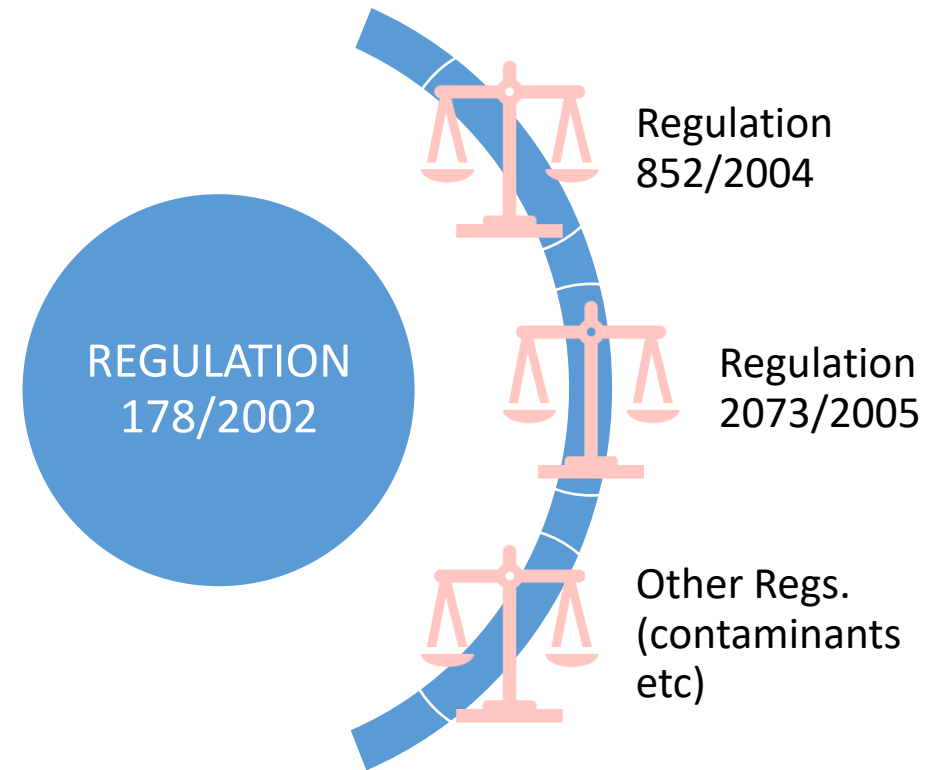
- Official Controls Legislation

Reg.
2017/625

- Sets out requirements for official controls and other official activities

S.I. 22 of
2022

- Transposed 2017/625 into National Law



Official controls - what are they?

Official controls are carried out by Competent Authorities (**DAFM, HSE, SFPA, FSAI etc**) to:

- ☐ ensure the safety and integrity of all food, food products and ingredients at each stage of the agri-food chain
- ☐ verify that all Food Business Operators involved in the agri-food chain are complying with legal requirements and hygiene standards

Official controls include audits, inspections, sampling and analysis of food establishments, foods and goods

General Rules – Official Controls Reg. 2017/625



Risk Based Official Controls – Who to Inspect?





| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| Name: | Joe Bloggs | JOINT VENTURE | HFR Number: | 0000 | | | | | |
| Company Name: | BloggsCo Ltd. | Trading As: | Blogford and sons | | | | | | |
| Client Details | Registration Info | Produce | Risk Rating | QA and Organics | Joint Venture | Beekeeping | Honey packer | Comments | Functionality |

Water sources:

Borehole

☒ Yes

☒ No

Group Water Scheme

☒ Yes

☒ No

Mains Water

☒ Yes

☒ No

Ponds

☒ Yes

☒ No

Private Well

☒ Yes

☒ No

Rainwater Collection/Harvested

☒ Yes

☒ No

Reservoir

☒ Yes

☒ No

River

☒ Yes

☒ No

Produces ready to eat food

☒ Yes

☒ No

Processing Activities

☒ Yes

☒ No

Approved sprouts producer

☒ Yes

☒ No

Exporter (non EU)

☒ Yes

☒ No

Organic Producer

☒ Yes

☒ No

Sells online

☒ Yes

☒ No

Hydroponic Producer

☒ Yes

☒ No

Microgreen Producer

☒ Yes

☒ No

Wheatgrass Producer

☒ Yes

☒ No

Inspections

Last Inspection Date

12/12/2025

Last CN1 Date

Employees

Employees - total (full time equivalent):

21

Risk Rating:

72

Find Record

Undo Changes

Add Record

Save Record

Exit to main menu

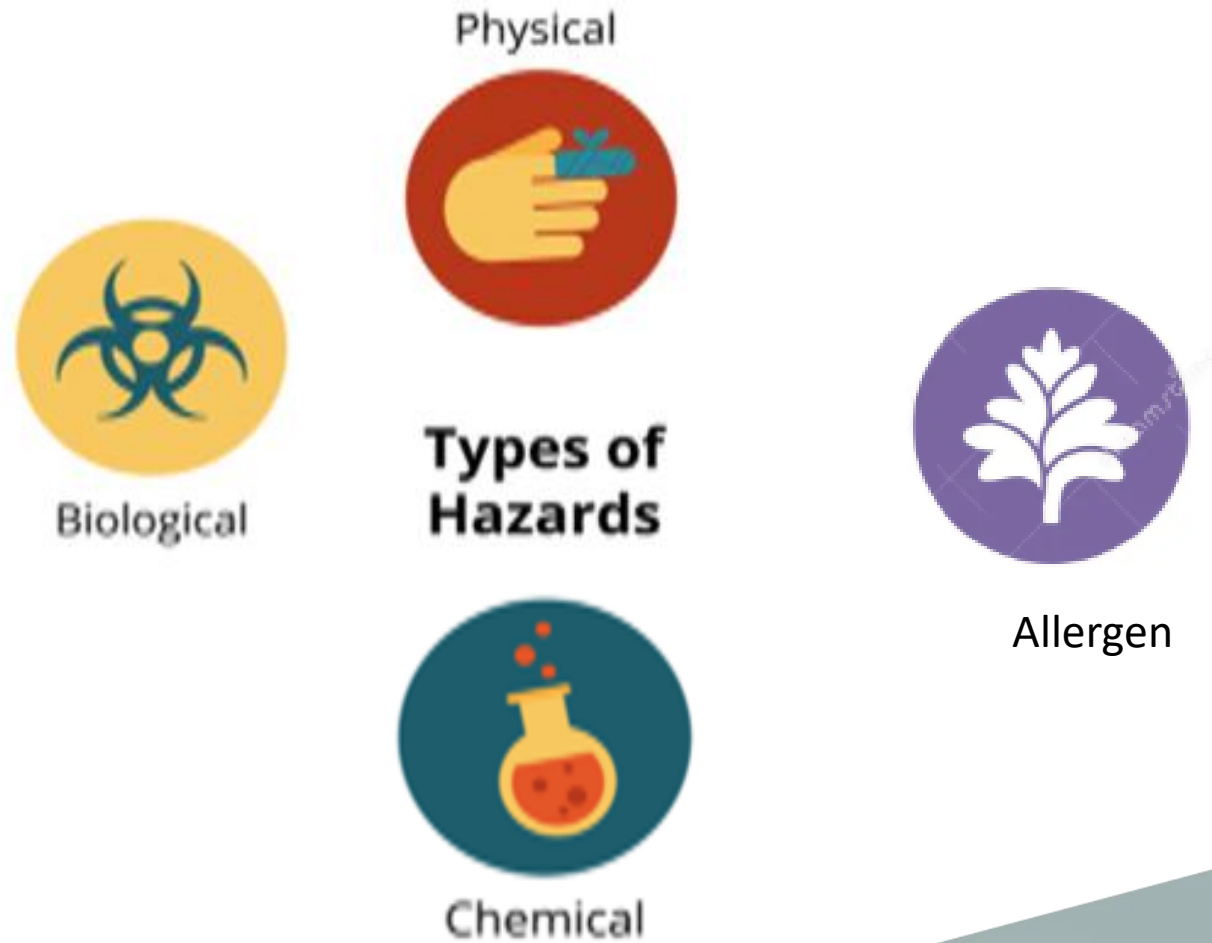
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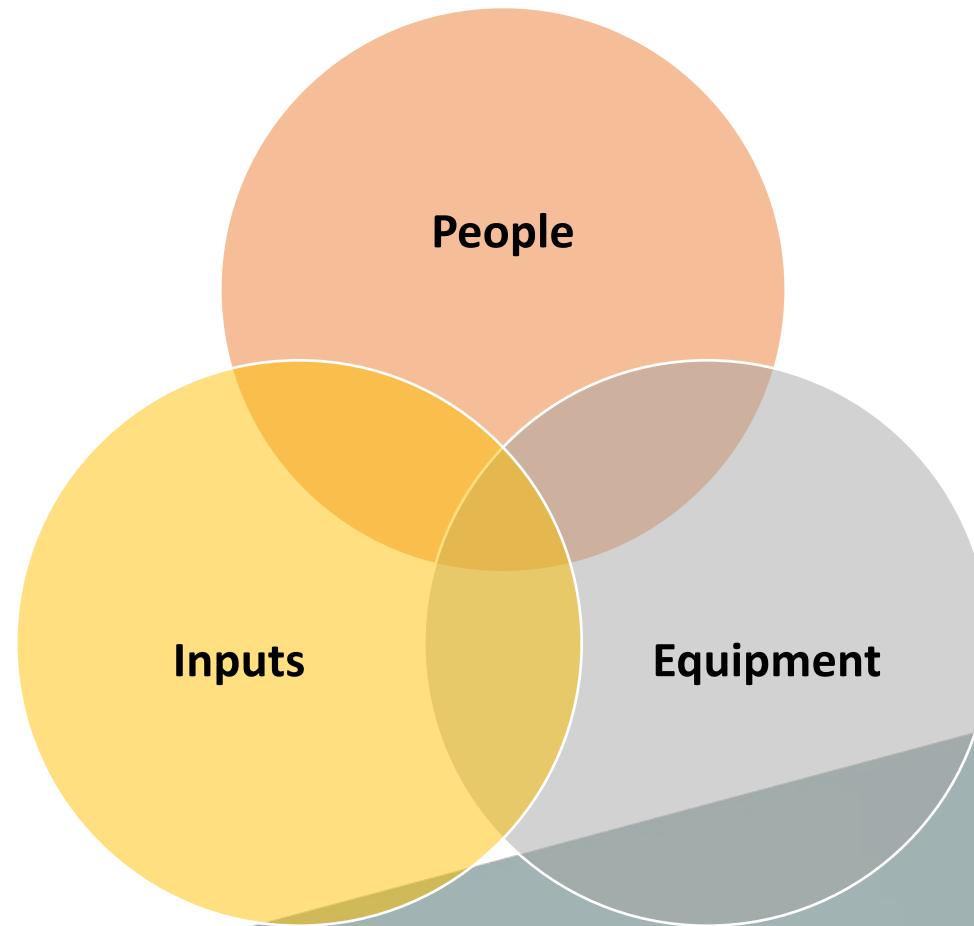
Unfiltered

Search

Characterisation of Hazards



Potential Source of Hazards



Key Areas

- Appropriate site/site history
- Water source & usage
- Pest Control
- Staff Facilities
- Staff Training



Key Areas

- Waste management
- Plant Protection Products usage
- Good Harvest Practices
- Good Hygiene Practices
- Documentation



Records & Traceability



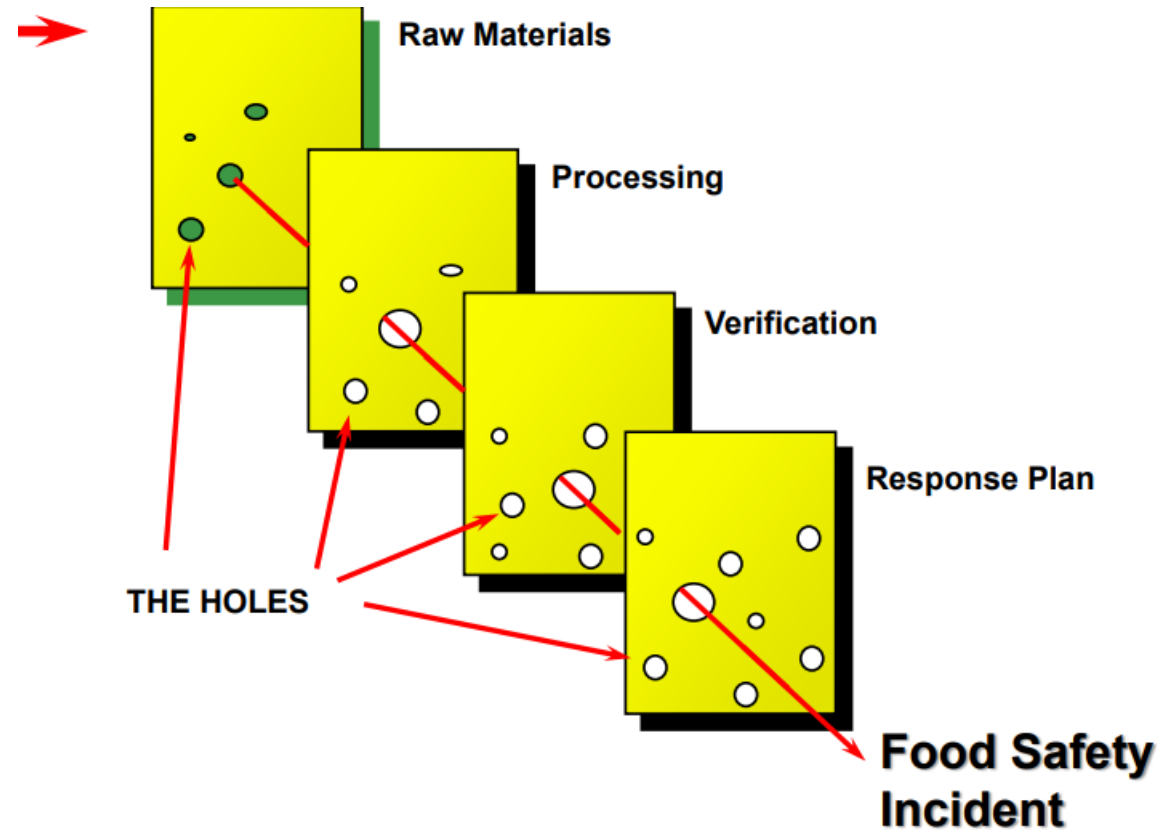
ONE STEP BACKWARDS



ONE STEP FORWARD



Why does it matter?



FOOD INCIDENTS



- DAFM – Competent Authority for primary production - to be informed immediately
- Produce which is injurious to human health or unfit for human consumption to be recalled/withdrawn without delay
- DAFM “Risk Managers” – will work with FBO to manage and close incidents
- DAFM will inform FSAI (may require a Food Alert)
- Robust traceability vital
- Time critical provision of information

**Food Safety
Quality
Public Health**

**Market Losses
Downtime
Reputational
Damage**





For further information visit:

- www.gov.ie/en/department-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/collections/horticulture/
- Commission notice on guidance document on addressing microbiological risks in fresh fruits and vegetables at primary production through good hygiene



Project: Assessing the risk of foodborne pathogen contamination in fresh fruit and vegetable productions

Andrea Baqueiro
Samuel Kenyon
Achim Schmalenberger
Kaye Burgess

We want to improve Pathogen Surveillance for Irish Apple and Spinach growers



ul.ie/research/safegreen
Learn more!

Growers
would you like to
participate?



Register your
interest here

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Thank you for your attention.

Any Questions?