

Throughout the last six months Alden Oxford Ltd have been working towards legislative compliance and ensuring we provide our customers with allergen information in a format which is easy to use and comprehensive. This information pack is designed to give our customers helpful and relevant information presented in a simple way.

- Each customer will be issued with an allergen list relating to all products Aldens supply.
- Allergen information will be noted on each product label as outlined in statutory law. (see enclosed)
- Full specification sheets are available on all products are available (examples enclosed). These can be emailed at a moment's notice.
- Aldens will give an assurance that requests for further information will be dealt with rapidly.

## LEGISLATION CHANGES - FOOD LABELLING – ALLERGENS

The Food Information for Consumers Regulation EU No. 1169/2011 is aimed at providing comprehensive food labelling information for consumers covering a number of aspects of labelling. Implementation will commence on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014 when allergen labelling requirements will come into force. This will be followed by requirements concerning nutritional and origin labelling in coming months.

There are a number of guidance notes and factsheets published by the Food Standards Agency and various industry bodies which explain the reason for the change in legislation and the key requirements.

It is estimated that approximately 2 million people in the UK have a food allergy and considerably more suffer from a food intolerance. Symptoms vary from mild reactions such as rashes and itching to death with approximately 10 people dying annually in the UK from food related allergic reactions. Currently 14 major allergens have been identified and the legislation sets down the rules for how the presence of these in foods must be indicated to the consumer.

December 2014

These allergens are:

**Cereals containing gluten** namely wheat (such as spelt and Khorasan wheat), barley, rye and oats

**Crustaceans** like prawns, crabs, lobster and crayfish etc.

**Eggs**

**Fish**

**Peanuts**

**Soybeans**

**Milk**

**Nuts** namely almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, pecan nuts, Brazil nuts, pistachio, cashew,

Macadamia or Queensland nut.

**Celery**

**Mustard**

**Sesame**

**Sulphur dioxide or sulphites** (where added and is >10mg/kg in the finished product. Often found in dried fruit and wine)

**Lupin**

**Molluscs** like clams, scallops, squid, mussels, oysters and snails etc.

[Taken from the Food Standards Agency's Food Allergen Factsheet.]

### Commonly Asked Questions:

**QU:** "The chicken supremes on your list are in BBQ marinade and I would like tandoori. Can you marinade them in tandoori just this once?"

**AN:** "If there is no code & product description unfortunately, we cannot supply. However, we can supply a the marinade separately or suggest other products"

**QU:** "Can I buy just the marinade?"

**AN:** - "Yes, we have 14 main types. They come in 2.5kg tubs."

**QU:** "I have guinea fowl supreme stuffed with fresh chives and cream cheese on my new menu. It's not on your product list. Can you create a product code and get it listed?"

**AN:** - "absolutely, every request is noted down. At the start of each month new products are created. As you can imagine setting up products now requires quite a bit of work and can't be done immediately. Will endeavour to help as much we can as quickly as possible"

**QU:** "Will you allergens or ingredients ever change?"

**AN:** "Yes, this will be ongoing. The master allergen list will be reviewed and updated. While raw meat has no allergens any added ingredient such as marinades or stuffing mix may change as our suppliers will change their ingredients.

**QU:** "Will your ingredients change of your cheese, salami, cooked pies, and cooked meats?"

**AN:** "Yes, it's possible. REALLY important for you to check the ingredients list on the manufactures label. Factored goods that Aldens do not produce or label; please check as allergens may change without notice. Aldens will review / update allergens on factored goods."