

## Section 4: Mapping of intervention rating scores to the food hygiene rating

### Introduction

- 4.1 The following elements of the 'food hygiene intervention rating scheme' set out in the *Food Law Code of Practice* are relevant to calculating the food hygiene rating following an inspection, partial inspection or audit:
- level of (current) compliance with food hygiene and safety procedures (including food handling practices and procedures, and temperature control),
  - level of (current) compliance with structural requirements (including cleanliness, layout, condition of structure, lighting, ventilation, facilities etc.), and
  - confidence in management/control procedures.
- 4.2 Each element is numerically scored against the relevant criteria on the basis of guidance given in the Code and in [Section 3](#) of this document.

### Mapping intervention rating scores to the six food hygiene ratings of the FHRS

- 4.3 The intervention rating numerical scores are then 'mapped' to the six food hygiene ratings which range from '0' at the bottom to '5' at the top. Any business should be able to achieve the top rating as it requires no more than compliance with food hygiene law.
- 4.4 The rating depends on the overall level of compliance – the total intervention score for the three elements – but also reflects the level of compliance for each of the individual areas by taking account of the highest of the three scores – the additional scoring factor.
- 4.5 The table below outlines this mapping.

Mapping of numerical scores from the intervention-rating scheme in the <i>Food Law Code of Practice</i> to the six FHRS food hygiene ratings						
Total intervention rating scores	0 - 15	20	25 - 30	35 - 40	45 - 50	> 50
Additional scoring factor	No individual score greater than 5	No individual score greater than 10	No individual score greater than 10	No individual score greater than 15	No individual score greater than 20	-
Food hygiene rating	0 1 2 3 4 <b>5</b>	0 1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5	0 1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5	0 1 <b>2</b> 3 4 5	0 <b>1</b> 2 3 4 5	<b>0</b> 1 2 3 4 5
Descriptor	Very good	Good	Generally satisfactory	Improvement necessary	Major improvement necessary	Urgent improvement necessary

4.6 This means that where an individual intervention rating score exceeds the additional scoring factor, the food hygiene rating of the establishment will drop down the scale to the rating where it no longer exceeds the additional scoring factor. This is illustrated by the examples below.

Individual intervention rating scores	Total intervention rating score	Highest score – additional scoring factor	Food hygiene rating
5, 5, 5	15	5	5
0, 5, 10	15	10	4
5, 5, 20	30	20	1

4.7 The decision to use numbers with simple word descriptors for the ratings was based on the findings of independent research with consumers.<sup>15</sup>

4.8 The FHRS branding is designed to represent the ratings in a way it is easy for consumers to understand and use as illustrated below.



<sup>15</sup> The report of this research is published at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2010/jun/research>.