Carrier

A person who harbours, and may transmit, pathogenic organisms without showing signs of illness.

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Contamination

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The presence or introduction of a hazard. (EC Regulation No. 852/2004)

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Cross-contamination

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The transfer of bacteria from contaminated food (usually raw) to ready-to-eat foods by direct contact, drip or indirect contact using a vehicle such as the hands or a cloth.

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Danger zone of bacteriological growth

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The temperature range within which the multiplication of most foodborne pathogenic bacteria is possible i.e. from 5°C to 63°C. Most rapid multiplication occurs between 20°C and 50°C.

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Foodborne disease

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An illness resulting from the consumption of food (or water) contaminated by pathogenic micro-organisms and/or toxins which do not need to multiply within the food to cause illness.

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Food business

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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.

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Food hygiene

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The measures and conditions necessary to control hazards and to ensure fitness for human consumption of a foodstuff taking into account its intended use. (EC Regulation No.852/2004)

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Food pest

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An animal which lives in or on man's food and is destructive, noxious or troublesome.

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Food poisoning

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An acute illness, usually with symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, nausea and abdominal pain, caused by the consumption of contaminated or poisonous food (a multiplication of bacteria usually occurs within the food).

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Food safety

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All those measures necessary to ensure food is free of contaminants and will not cause any harm.

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Gastroenteritis

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An inflammation of the stomach and intestinal tract that normally results in diarrhoea.

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Pasteurization

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A heat process used to reduce the number of micro-organisms to a safe level.

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Pathogen

Disease-producing organism.

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Risk groups

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Those people who are likely to suffer the most severe consequences, or death, from foodborne illness or contaminants including the elderly, ill people (immunocompromised), the very young, allergen-sensitive people and pregnant women.

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Safe food

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Food which is free of contaminants and will not cause harm, injury or illness.

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Spore

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A resistant resting phase of certain bacteria, protecting them against adverse conditions, such as high temperature. They can survive for many years in this state.

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Sterilization

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A process that destroys all living organisms.

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Toxins

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Poisons produced by pathogens.

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Control measures

Actions or activities required to prevent or eliminate a food safety hazard or reduce it to an acceptable level.

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HACCP

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A food safety management system which identifies, evaluates and controls hazards which are significant for food safety.

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Hazard

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A biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, food with the potential to cause harm (an adverse health effect) to the consumer.

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Monitoring (checking)

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The planned observations or measurements of control parameters to confirm that the process is under control, and that critical limits are not exceeded.

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Bactericide

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A substance which destroys bacteria.

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Biodegradable

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A substance capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms.

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Cleaning

The application of energy to a surface to remove dirt and grease (energy may be physical, chemical or heat).

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Detergent

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A chemical used to remove dirt, grease and food particles.

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Disinfectant

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A chemical used to reduce micro-organisms to a safe level.

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Sanitizer

A detergent and disinfectant combined.

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Sterilization

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The process of destroying all micro-organisms and their spores.

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Corrective action

The action to be taken when results of monitoring at a CCP indicate loss of control, i.e. a critical limit is breached.

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