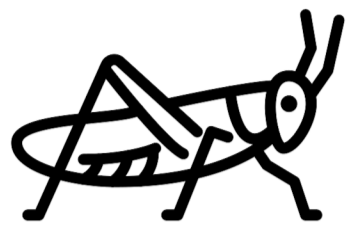


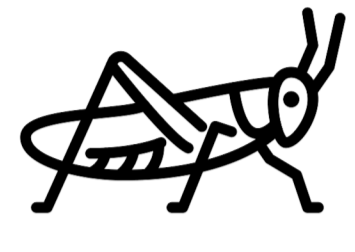
Towards effective regulation of edible insects in the UK

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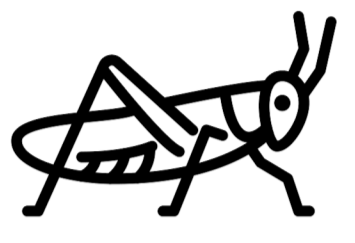
The Novel Foods (England) Regulations 2018 currently identify all edible insects as potentially high risk. A consequence of this is that companies who wish to produce edible insect products are forced to provide substantial evidence of safety, at considerable cost. Our current review of the available evidence regarding the safety of eating insects is revealing:



There is a good understanding of the risks, and methods of mitigation, for crickets, mealworms and grasshoppers; however many insects have not been researched in such depth



There are no reports of consumers coming to harm from eating insects or products containing insects.



A wide variety of other insects could potentially be farmed

A review of international legislation regarding edible insects identified a number of models.

Many jurisdictions are in a state of flux and general uncertainty which is negatively impacting the growth of the sector and availability of edible insect products.

The evidence therefore suggests that there is no real justification for treating all edible insects as high risk.

The sector's aim is to ensure that all those working with these livestock (and ingredients) are enabled to understand and manage any associated risks.

NOVEL FOOD REGULATIONS

Currently four Novel Food Applications are in progress in the UK & EU (no 'Traditional Food Notification' applications have been submitted, due to lack of clarity for this route).

*Cost of Acheta Domesticus FSA application is in addition to the cost of the EFSA dossier on which it's based.

Dossier	Date of Application	Duration to date	Est. cost to date	No. of EFSA/FSA requests for further information
Acheta Domesticus (EFSA)	Jan 2018	5yrs 4 mths	€150,000	13
Tenebrio Molitor (EFSA)	April 2018	5yrs	€150,000	15
Locusta Migratoria (EFSA)	April 2018	5yrs	TBD	3
Acheta Domesticus (FSA)	Dec 2021	1yr 4 mths	£10,000*	2

FEEDBACK FROM DOSSIER AUTHORS

- Development of dossier template to streamline and standardise applications
- Dedicated staff/team with understanding of issues around edible insects
- Clear guidance on data requirement for each dossier

- Approach is academic rather than pragmatic.
- Cost & time requirements favour large private companies, SMEs at a disadvantage
- Lack of clarity of requirements resulting in multiple request for information – result is spiralling cost and time commitment

SUGGESTIONS TO FSA BASED ON ABOVE OBSERVATIONS

UNDERSTANDING OF RISK MITIGATION VARIES BETWEEN SPECIES

The FSA produced a technical report (2022) with their assessment of the safety risks associated with edible insects, based on a literature review.

UKEIA expanded this review (using the same search terms) to show the methods of mitigation used for each insect species.

No. of articles found to mention the safety & risk mitigation of particular insect species

Hermetia illucens (Black Soldier Fly)	253
Tenebrio Molitor (Mealworm)	252
Locusta Migratoria (Migratory Locust)	252
Acheta Domesticus (House Cricket)	234
Cicadoidea (Cicada)	44
Rhynchophorus ferrugineus (Palm Weevil)	28
Oecophylla (Weaver Ant)	4
Gryllodes sigillatus (Banded Cricket)	4



SCAN ME

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