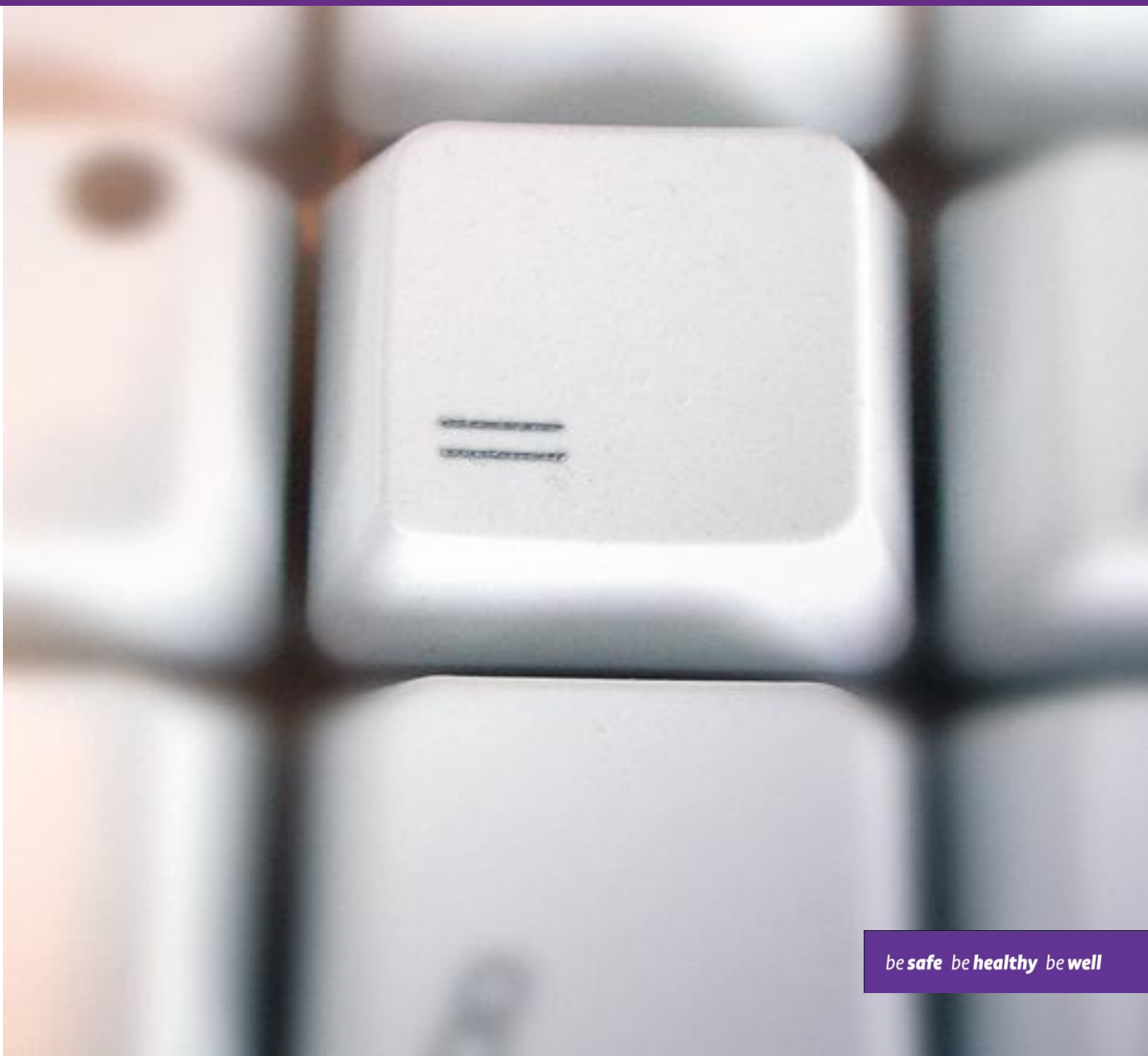


# Revised Equality Scheme (Summary)

September 2011



# Equality Scheme (Summary) for *safefood*

Drawn up in accordance with Section 75 and Schedule 9  
of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

This document is available in a range of formats on request.

Please contact us with your requirements

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The Equality Scheme was approved by the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland in September 2011.

# Introduction

Our Equality Scheme explains why equal opportunities and promoting good relations are important. The Scheme also sets out how we plan to carry out our policies, functions and duties in a way that promotes equality.

We have also undertaken an Audit of Inequalities and prepared a Section 75 Action Plan to cover the period of our Corporate Plan as a means of ensuring effective implementation of our duties through our internal reporting systems. These documents are separate from the Equality Scheme as they are 'living' documents and can be found at:

<http://www.safefood.eu/About-Us/Our-Policies/Equality.aspx>

**safefood** was established on 2 December 1999 under the British-Irish Agreement as one of the six North/South Implementation bodies and operates on an all island basis. **safefood**'s headquarters are based in Cork with a sub-office in Dublin. We are accountable to the North South Ministerial Council which in turn is accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas. Departmental responsibility for **safefood** rests with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland and the Department of Health and Children in Republic of Ireland.

The governing legislation confers the following specific functions on the organisation:

- Promotion of food safety
- Research into food safety
- Communication of food alerts
- Surveillance of foodborne disease
- Promotion of scientific co-operation and laboratory linkages
- Development of cost-effective facilities for specialised laboratory testing.

In addition to these specific functions, **safefood** has a general remit to act as an independent source of scientific advice.

## Why do we need an Equality Scheme?

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, all public authorities are required to set out in an Equality Scheme how they propose to fulfil the duties imposed upon them in relation to the promotion of equal opportunities and good relations.

## What are the main parts?

### Foreword

This is the commitment from the Chief Executive to ensure **safefood** meets its legal requirements.

### Chapter 1

This explains our statutory framework, our organisational role and structure.

### Chapter 2

This details our arrangements for ensuring compliance of Section 75 duties. It covers who is responsible at operational and organisational level.

### Chapter 3

Chapter 3 gives details of how we will consult on all aspects of the implementation of our statutory duties.

### Chapter 4

This explains how we will conduct screening of our policies and, if required, carry out an EQIA which means assessing whether a policy creates differences between different groups or if it can better improve and promote equality of opportunities. It includes how we will publish screening and EQIA activities and how we will monitor any adverse impact of policies.

### Chapter 5

This outlines our commitment to training our staff so that they will be able to carry out their duties in a way that promotes equal opportunities.

## Chapter 6

This gives details of how we will make sure information about us and what we do is accessible to everyone.

## Chapter 7

This is our timetable for managing our equality scheme obligations between 2011 and 2016.

## Chapter 8

This is how we will handle complaints by any failure on behalf of **safefood** to comply with the Equality Scheme.

## Chapter 9

This sets out how we will publish our Scheme.

## Chapter 10

This sets out when we will review our Scheme.

## Obtaining further information

You can obtain a copy of the full Equality Scheme from our website [www.safefood.eu](http://www.safefood.eu) or alternatively, by telephoning or writing to:

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