



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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Dear Chris,

Thank you for your email of 6 February to the Secretary of State and myself about the Association of Bakery Ingredient Manufacturers' sourdough code of practice. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government welcomes the development of a code of practice by the UK baking industry to help with consistency and best practice in relation to the labelling of sourdough bread and rolls. We encourage all those involved in the production and marketing of sourdough to work together to ensure the code represents the best interests of all involved.

Industry codes of practice can provide a useful resource to support a level playing field for businesses. It should be noted that these are not authoritative statements of law, existing food labelling legislation ensures that the labelling and marketing of food does not mislead consumers. The Government has no plans to introduce new regulations on the use of the term sourdough.

Enforcement of food labelling regulations is delegated to Trading Standards officers in local authorities, if you believe food labels are misleading these are the most appropriate and qualified authority to determine compliance.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP**