



## **Roaches, Rat Dropping Part of Reason 42 Food Establishments Were Earmarked For Closure Last Year**

Ireland | January 11, 2021

Proof of presence and infestation of roaches is among reasons why some 42 food establishments were earmarked for closure in 2020.

Ireland's Food and Safety Authority, FSAI, recently stated that the enforcement orders were issued on the 42 business for what it considered breach of food safety regulations last year, a decline of 67 percent when compared to the 125 that the closed in 2019.

The decline in cases is a reflection of the strict food safety measures. The authority emphasized that responsibility to ensure that food is prepared in sanitary condition lies with the food businesses.

In the period between January and December of 2020, about 2 improvement order, 31 closure orders and 9 prohibition orders were sent out by veterinary inspectors, health officer from the health service executive as well as officers from the FSAI to businesses across the country.

Conditions that led to issuance of the orders include unsupervised and unregistered food businesses, evidence of roach and rodent infestation, failure maintain optimum temperature for stored foodstuffs, lack or water facilities.

The chief executive of the FSAI, Dr. Pamela Byrne, emphasized the seriousness of busines being issued with an enforcement order. She added that while in any given year it would be pleasing to see a decline in enforcement orders, the decline is a reflection of closure of businesses as a result of the impact of COVID-19.

That said, the 42 enforcement orders are on the higher side, and it is an indication, sadly, that there continues to be a number of businesses that are not complying to requirements.