



Book Review

Food Allergy and Intolerance—Current Issues and Concerns

Victoria Emerton (Ed.); Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), Cambridge, UK, 2002, xviii + 181 pages, ISBN 0-85404-881-2, £79.50

The number of allergy cases is rising all the time, and this has caught the attention of many scientists. Some believe that dramatic changes in the environment and climate as a result of pollution has made the immune system of certain individuals over sensitive to many outside potential allergens. This could also be linked to medical developments and over subscribing of drugs resulting in the over protection of human beings and a weakening of their own immune systems.

When an allergic reaction occurs IgE is produced in large quantities and causes a local hypersensitivity. In very severe allergenic reactions anaphylactic shock can occur and, if left untreated, can lead to death. Common foods that can lead to allergenic reactions are outlined in this book, and include milk, nuts, soya beans, seafood, sesame, etc. One of the food industries major targets is to provide allergy-free food for its customers. In order to reach this goal, good manufacturing

practice is essential in order to minimise or eliminate cross contamination with potential allergens. Clear and accurate labelling of products is also required in order to prevent customers with known allergies consuming such allergens in error.

The issues and practical problems that food allergies cause for the food industry are outlined in this volume, along with the steps being taken by food retailers. Other topics of specific interest that are covered include risk management, hyperactivity, lactose intolerance, and celiac disease. This book is of great value to food industry professionals, and provides not only an informative resource for all who are interested in food allergy and intolerance, but also the latest developments in this field.

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