



# *Calaveras County*

## *Environmental Management Agency*

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### **MEMO**

Date: June 9, 2011

To: All Food Facilities

From: Calaveras County Environmental Health Department

Regarding: California Food Handler Card Requirements

The California Food Handler Card Law (Health and Safety Code 113790 et seq.), enacted in 2010, requires food handlers to obtain a food handler card by taking a food safety training course and passing an examination.

A "Food Handler" is defined as an individual who is involved in the preparation, storage or service of food in a food facility. Individuals who have a valid food safety certificate (issued pursuant to Section 113947.3) or individuals involved in the preparation, storage, or service of food in a temporary food facility are exempt from this requirement.

This means that most restaurant employees are subject to the California Food Handler Card Law and must obtain a food handler card by taking a food safety training course and passing an examination.

The food safety certification examination shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

1. Food borne illness;
2. The relationship between time and temperature with respect to food borne illness;
3. The relationship between personal hygiene and food safety;
4. Methods of preventing food contamination in all stages of food handling;
5. Procedures for cleaning and sanitizing equipment and utensils;
6. Problems and potential solutions associated with facility and equipment design, layout and construction, and
7. Problems and potential solutions associated with temperature control, preventing cross-contamination, housekeeping and maintenance.

In the original legislation, food handlers hired prior to June 1, 2011 must obtain a food handler card on or before July 1, 2011. Food handlers hired on or after June 1, 2011 have to obtain a food handler card within 30 days after being hired. Please note that this deadline has been delayed until **January 1, 2012** to facilitate implementation by local Health Departments.

The food handler card is valid for three years from the date of issuance and will be issued only upon successful completion of an approved food handler training course and course assessment (examination).

The law applies to both salaried and hourly workers, as well as, full time and part time workers, who are involved in the preparation, storage or service of food in a food facility.

Food safety training courses, course examinations and food handler cards are provided only through accredited organizations. Here are the current accredited organizations:

Above Training – State Food Safety

<http://www.statefoodsafety.com/food-handler/california/state-of-california>

National Environmental Health Association

<http://www.nehatraining.org/>

National Registry of Food Safety Providers

<http://www.nrfsp.com/>

National Restaurant Association Solutions, LLC

<http://www.restaurant.org/>

Premier Food Safety

<http://www.premierfoodsafety.com/training-certification/foodhandler>

Prometric Inc.

<http://www.prometric.com/foodsafety/default.htm>

TAP Series

[http://www.tapseries.com/sc\\_product\\_options\\_cafshdsl.asp](http://www.tapseries.com/sc_product_options_cafshdsl.asp)

Food handler training courses and course assessments may be offered through a trainer-led class and course assessment in a classroom situation. In addition, food handler training courses and course assessments may be offered on-line as a “self-training and assessment” program on the Internet.

Each food facility that employs a food handler shall maintain records documenting that each food handler employed by the food facility possesses a valid food handler card. The food facility shall provide those records to the local enforcement officer upon request.

Certain statutory **exemptions** exist and apply to food handlers in:

1. Temporary food facilities;
2. Certified farmers markets;
3. Commissaries;
4. Grocery Stores;
5. Convenience stores;
6. Licensed health care facilities;
7. Mobile support units;
8. Public and private school cafeterias;
9. Restricted food service facilities;
10. Retail stores in which a majority of sales are from a pharmacy;
11. A food facility that provides approved in-house food safety training;
12. A food facility that is subject to a collective bargaining agreement with its food handlers;
13. Food handlers who are subject to an existing local food handler program that took effect prior to January 1, 2009 (Food handlers who work in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties are exempt but need to obtain a county-specific food handler card because these counties have pre-existing local food handler programs.), and
14. Food handlers who hold a valid Manager’s Food Safety Certificate pursuant to current food safety laws.

If you have questions please contact this Department at 209-754-6399.