

## COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN News You Can Use

### Refrigerators and Freezers Commercial Upgrade Requirements

#### Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide compliance assistance information to retail food facility owners regarding the use of domestic / non-commercial refrigeration. The California Uniform Retail Food Facilities Law (CURFFL) requires equipment being used in retail food facilities to meet specific sanitation standards and be certified by an agency approved to qualify that equipment.

#### Issue

Some retail food facility owners are using unapproved domestic freezers and refrigerators in their food facilities. This is a violation of CURFFL which requires that all food-related and utensil-related equipment be certified or classified for sanitation by an accredited certification program. **Domestic refrigerators and freezers do not have this certification because they are not designed for the heavy demand of a retail food facility.** Domestic refrigeration does not have the same cooling capacity as commercial refrigeration and it is not as durable, and cleanable as commercial equipment.

#### What This Means To You

Using domestic refrigerators and freezers in a retail food facility is a violation of CURFFL Section 114065. All domestic refrigerators and freezers are required to be removed and or replaced with an approved refrigeration unit within six months of being notified of this requirement.

If your domestic refrigerator or freezer is not maintaining potentially hazardous foods below 41°F, potentially hazardous foods must be removed immediately to a working refrigeration unit or discarded. The refrigeration unit must be removed from the facility within 30 days.

#### How to Know if a Refrigerator or Freezer is Acceptable

CURFFL requires that food-related and utensil-related equipment be certified or classified for sanitation by an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited certification program. The following organizations have accredited certification programs. Look for one of these seals on your equipment to verify that it meets those requirements. You may also check their website to see if your equipment is listed as certified.



<http://www.etlsemko.com/etllistedmark.html>



<http://www.nsf.org/Certified/Food/>



[Http://www.ul.com/foodsafety/foodgry.htm](http://www.ul.com/foodsafety/foodgry.htm)

**Enforcement  
Action**

Failure to correct violations written on the Official Inspection Report will result in enforcement action that may include additional fees, hearings, and permit revocation.

**Questions and  
Answers****Can I replace my domestic refrigerator with a new domestic refrigerator?**

No, since it is not approved.

**If it is stainless steel, is it commercial?**

Not all stainless steel refrigerators and freezers meet this requirement. You must look for a certification seal from one of the organizations listed on previous page in order to know if the refrigerator or freezer meets the requirement.

**Why haven't you told me this before?**

This has been a requirement since CURFFL was first introduced in 1986. This is an effort to bring about consistency in inspection and enforcement of all retail food facilities operating in Sacramento County.

**Do I have to submit plans for review prior to installing a commercial refrigerator?**

If you are planning to (or need to) install a walk-in refrigerator or freezer, you are required to submit three (3) sets of plans on paper that is a minimum of 24"x18", with a scale of a minimum ¼ inch per foot. The plans should also include all equipment details for the new equipment. Plan Review is located at 827 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 102. Plans must be submitted and approved prior to installing any new equipment. If the refrigerator or freezer is a "stand alone" piece of equipment that is NSF approved or equivalent, you are not required to submit plans, unless required by your ES.

**For More  
Information or  
Assistance**

For additional information, contact Environmental Management Department (EMD) at (916) 875-8440, [EMDinfo@SacCounty.net](mailto:EMDinfo@SacCounty.net), or go to the EMD web site <http://www.emd.saccounty.net>.

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