

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION

Purpose

The purpose of this Bulletin is to notify you of the requirements for Food Safety Education (FSE). FSE is a food safety class conducted by the Environmental Management Department (EMD). If education during the inspection process has failed to lead to compliance and major violations affecting food safety are observed during inspections, FSE may be required.

Issue

Major violations are those which may cause or contribute to foodborne illness (see major violations listed below). If a retail food business has repeated or excessive major violations, EMD will conclude that FSE is warranted to protect public health and safety.

What This Means To You

Beginning July 1, 2003, owners of food facilities that have a history of repeat major violations and non-compliance in correcting major violations may be required to attend, and send their staff to, FSE. The food facility owner will be required to pay for attendance to FSE.

After an inspection is conducted, the Environmental Specialist (ES) will inform the owner/operator if FSE is warranted. A "Notice to Attend" FSE (containing detailed instructions) will be sent to the facility owner/operator.

Examples of Major Violations Include:

- No soap and/or paper towels are available at the hand wash sink.
- Employees are not following hand washing procedures.
- Potentially hazardous food is being held at improper temperatures (140° F or more for hot foods and 41° F or less for cold foods).
- Food is being cooled, thawed or heated improperly.
- Left over or prepared potentially hazardous foods (meat, poultry and eggs not cooked to minimum required temperatures).
- Potential for cross contamination of food.
- Sanitizer is not available for use.
- Foods are obtained from unapproved sources.
- Probe thermometer is not available.
- Pest infestation poses a threat of contamination.
- General filth of facility poses a threat of contamination.
- Any other major violation that may pose a threat to public health and safety.

Continued on reverse

Enforcement Action

Failure to comply with this requirement for Food Safety Education will result in further enforcement action that may include additional fees, fines, and penalties in addition to attending FSE.

Questions and Answers

Below you will find common questions and answers:

Questions and Answers

How much will it cost to send staff to FSE?

The class will cost \$20.00 per person; the owner is responsible for payment prior to staff attendance at FSE.

If I am required to attend FSE, which employees are required to attend FSE?

All employees that handle unpackaged food and all managers will be required to attend FSE.

How long is the class and when will it be offered?

The class will last approximately three hours and will be offered twice monthly, 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at EMD offices. A detailed schedule and location will be sent with a "Notice to Attend".

May I just pay a fine instead of attending FSE?

No, you must attend the FSE course. The goal is to increase food safety through education, not to penalize the owner.

May I retrain my own employees instead of sending them to FSE?

FSE is required when excessive and repeat major violations are not being addressed by the food facility staff. The purpose of FSE is to ensure that food handlers understand the basic principles of food safety and apply the concepts.

Can FSE occur at my place of business?

Yes, EMD will try to accommodate the request at a minimum cost for 20 people.

When does this requirement take affect?

July 1, 2003

For More Information or Assistance

For additional information contact the EMD at (916) 875-8440, EMDinfo@SacCounty.net or you may also obtain information from the website, <http://www.emd.saccounty.net>.

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