



November 1, 2011

**Dear Food Facility Operator,**

With the goal of ensuring safe food for the public, a new California Food Handler Card law requires food handlers throughout the state of California to obtain a food handler card by taking a food safety training course and passing a test effective July 1, 2011. The San Francisco Department of Public Health intends to actively enforce this regulation starting January 1, 2012.

**All food handlers** in San Francisco must possess either a valid Food Handler Card issued by an authorized Food Handler Training Organization or a valid Food Safety Manager Certificate. As an operator of a food facility, you are required to ensure that your workers possess a valid Food Handler Card and maintain a copy of their card on-site. Food Handler cards are valid for 3 years. This requirement applies to but not limited to the following employees:

- Servers
- Chefs/ head chefs/ cooks/ head cooks
- Bartenders
- Hosts and hostesses who handle food

The following food employees may also need to have a California Food Handler Card:

- Bussers
- Supervisors (general manager, or managers)

Exempted from this requirement are employees of:

- Certified farmers' markets
- Commissaries
- Grocery stores(Unionized) with food preparation, including convenience stores (except separately owned food facilities inside the store, for example, AFC Sushi)
- Licensed health care facilities
- Mobile support units
- School cafeterias
- Restricted food service facilities
- Pharmacies
- Snack bars located in facilities where the majority of sales are from admission tickets
- Facilities providing in-house food safety training, if that training is approved for use in another state that has adopted FDA Model Food Code Requirements (Florida only at this time)
- Facilities subject to a collective bargaining agreement with their employees
- Food facilities subject to local food handler program requirement prior to *January 1, 2009* (only facilities located in: Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties)
- City, County, and State detention facilities (jails, juvenile hall, camp, ranch etc)
- Elderly Nutrition Programs

- Temporary food facilities
- Volunteers

As the new California Food Handler Law is implemented in the state, you may receive training offers for courses that claim to be accepted statewide. **Please be advised that only food handler cards from American National Standards Institute, (ANSI) approved courses are accepted.** If you need more information regarding Food Handler Card requirements in the San Francisco, visit our website: [www.sfdph.org/dph/EH/](http://www.sfdph.org/dph/EH/)

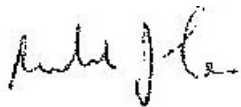
To find approved Training Organizations please visit:

<https://www.ansi.org/Accreditation/credentialing/certificate-issuers/AllDirectoryListing?prgID=262&statusID=4>

This site will be updated periodically with new approved training organizations.

For further assistance, please call us at (415) 252-3800 and speak to one of our Environmental Health Inspectors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Lee".

Richard J. Lee, MPH, CIH, CSP, REHS  
Director of Env. Health Regulatory Programs