



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/

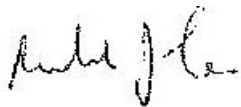
To find approved Training Organizations please visit:

<https://www.ansica.org/wwwversion2/outside/ALLdirectoryListing.asp?menuID=212&prgID=228&status=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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

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