

HEALTH CARE AGENCY/PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

TO: Orange County Retail Food Facility Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Award of Excellence Program for Retail Food Establishments

The Environmental Health Food Protection Program maintains an incentive program for food establishments, which identifies and awards a certificate to food establishments that routinely exhibit excellent food safety and sanitation practices. Food establishments included in the Award of Excellence Program are restaurants, catering establishments, meat/seafood markets, retail bakeries, and supermarkets/markets.

The purpose of this Informational Bulletin is to inform you of the Award of Excellence Program and to assist you in qualifying for it.

How do you qualify for the Award of Excellence Program?

An *Award of Excellence* certificate will be issued to those food establishments that meet all of the following criteria:

- Have not received a Major Violation on any routine inspection within the specified evaluation period;
- Have an average of no more than six (6) Minor Violations on a routine inspection within the specified evaluation period; and
- Have maintained at least one (1) individual who has passed an approved food safety certification examination.

What is a Major Violation?

A Major Violation is defined as any violation that presents an immediate danger to the public's health and safety (such as, but not limited to, improper food temperature control, lack of hot water, or vermin infestation). The criteria for a Major violation are based on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. A Major Violation may result in the suspension of the food facility's health permit and consequently the closure of the food facility.

What is a Minor Violation?

A Minor Violation is defined as any violation that does not pose a significant risk to Public Health (such as, but not limited to, improper food storage/display, equipment/utensils in disrepair, minor deterioration of the food facility, truth in labeling or utensils/equipment not maintained clean).

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What are the approved and accredited food safety examinations?

The California Health and Safety Code currently approve the following food safety certification examinations as meeting the new requirements:

1. The ServSafe Serving Safe Food Certification Examination

National Restaurant Association 175 West Jackson Blvd Suite 1500 Chicago, Illinois 60604-2702 (800) 765-2122 www.nraef.org

California Restaurant Association 1011 10th St. Sacramento, California 95814 (800) 765-4842 http://www.calrest.org/edfoundation/foodsafety.asp

2. The Chauncey Group International Food Protection Certification Examination

664 Rosedale Rd

Princeton, New Jersey 08540-2218 (609) 720-6500 FAX (609) 720-6550 www.chauncey.com

3. Experior Assessments (formerly The National Assessment Institute's (NAI) Certified Professional Food Manager Examination)

1260 Energy Lane St. Paul Minnesota 55108 (800) 623-2736 (800) 786-3926 www.experioronline.com

4. Professional Testing, Inc.

National Registry of Food Safety Professional 5728 Major Blvd, Suite 750 Orlando, Florida 32819 (407) 352-3830 (800) 446-0257 FAX (407) 352-3603

5. Dietary Manager's Association

406 Surrey Woods Drive St. Charles, Illinois 60174 (630) 587-6336 FAX (630) 587-6308 www.dmaonline.org

In what manner and how often is the Award of Excellence Certificate issued?

Following the calculation of the food establishment average routine inspection point scores from the previous calendar year, the *Award of Excellence* certificates will be issued each year and mailed to qualifying food establishments. Additionally, a list of each food establishment that qualified for the *Award of Excellence* certificate will be posted on the Environmental Health Food Protection Program web page @ www.ocfoodinfo.com

If you have any questions regarding the Award of Excellence program, please contact your Environmental Health Specialist at (714) 433-6000.

Award of Excellence.doc Rev.5/17/05 1241 E. DYER ROAD, SUITE 120, SANTA ANA, CA 92705-5611 Telephone: (714) 433-6000 / FAX: (714) 433-6423 www.ocfoodinfo.com