



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/eh/ehhome.htm

California Food Handler Card Law

What you need to know

What is the law about?

California has adopted the California Food Handler Card Law pursuant to SB 602 which was enacted into law in 2010 and SB 303 which was enacted into law in 2011.

Who is required to have a food handler card?

All food employees who prepare, store or serve food, must have a California Food Handler Card. This includes, but is not limited to:

- 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)

Managers who already have a Food Safety Manager Certification don't need a California Food Handler Card.

When will the law be effective?

By Law, food handlers hired before June 1, 2011 must have a food handler card by July 1, 2011. Food handlers hired on or after June 1, 2011 must have a food handler card within 30 days of hire.

How do you become certified?

You will have to take and pass a basic food safety training course with a score of 70 percent or better. The food handler may obtain a Food Handler Card by taking an online course from an accredited provider. A list of providers is available on the next page & on our website:

<http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/eh/ehhome.htm>

Where are the cards accepted?

California Food Handler Cards are accepted every where in California except Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties where local programs already exist.

Who pays for the training?

The law does not require employers to pay for an employee's time and expense to take the training and test. The California Food Handler Card is the property of the employee, who can take it to another employer as long as the card is valid.

How long is the card valid?

Cards are valid for three years from the date of issuance. The employers must keep a copy on file.

Who enforces the law?

Local health departments enforce the law. From July 1, 2011 to January 1, 2012, Santa Cruz County will be limited to education and notification for compliance.

Who is exempt from the law?

- Temporary food facilities (food booths)
- Certified farmers' markets
- Commissaries
- Grocery stores
- Convenience stores
- Licensed health care facilities
- Public and private school cafeterias
- Restricted food service facilities
- Retail stores where a majority of sales are from a pharmacy

For a complete list of exemptions, copies of the law, accredited providers, guidelines or additional questions visit us at our website.

Food Handlers Card Accredited Providers List

National Registry of Food Safety Professionals

www.NRFSP.com

National Restaurant Association

www.FoodHandlerUSA.com

Prometric

www.Prometric.com/foodsafety

Above Training/State Food Safety

www.StateFoodSafety.com

Premier Food Safety

www.PremierFoodSafety.com

Additional providers will be available soon. Please visit our website for a complete providers list and other information about the California Food Handlers Card Law.

<http://eh.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/EnvironmentalHealthServices/Programs/ConsumerProtectionPrograms/FoodFacilityInformation.aspx>