



Pomperaug District Department of Health

77 Main Street North • Playhouse Corner • Suite 205 • Southbury, CT 06488
(203) 264-9616 • Woodbury (203) 266-4785 • Oxford (203) 888-2543 x3005
Fax: (203) 262-1960 • Website: www.pddh.org

January 8, 2018

To: Food Service Establishments

From: Mona LaBissoniere, R.S., Sanitarian/Health Educator

RE: Changes to the Food Service Regulations

The Pomperaug District Department of Health would like to advise you about upcoming changes to the existing food service establishment regulations. The Connecticut legislature passed Public Act 17-93 which directs the CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) to adopt the FDA Food Code by July 1, 2018. This will mean some changes for both food service establishments and the local health departments.

I have attached a FAQ sheet from the CT DPH which might answer some of the most immediate questions. I encourage you to read it carefully. I also encourage you to become familiar with the FDA Food Code. You may find a copy online at www.fda.gov; type 2013 FDA Food Code into the search bar.

You are already familiar with a lot of the requirements of the FDA Food Code; the QFO certification classes are based on the Code. Also, the current CT code and its interpretation is largely based on the FDA Food Code. However, there are some things that will be different. I have highlighted a few of the changes that will have the greatest impact on you:

- The new cold holding temperature will be lowered from $\leq 45^{\circ}$ F to $\leq 41^{\circ}$ F. You should take steps to ensure that all your cold-holding equipment can meet this requirement. This requirement went into effect on October 1, 2017, and as of the date of this letter will be enforced by the Pomperaug District Department of Health.
- Previously, Qualified Food Operator (QFO) certificates did not have expiration dates in Connecticut. With the adoption of the FDA Food Code, Qualified Food Operators will be known as Certified Food Protection Managers and must pass an accredited test to get a certificate. The certificate must be valid and must be current – it cannot be expired. If your Primary QFO currently has an expired certificate, the Health District advises that you obtain a new Food Protection Manager certificate before June 30, 2018. Please be aware that there may be many people who have expired certificates that will be signing up for these certification exams.

Over →

- Potentially Hazardous Foods (PHF's) will now be known as Time/Temperature Controlled For Safety Foods (TCS foods). Cut leafy greens will now be considered a TCS food and will need to be cold held at $\leq 41^{\circ}\text{F}$.
- Food establishments will be required to implement a date marking system for certain foods stored in the establishment.
- Prior to issuance of a food service license from the Pomperaug District Department of Health, you will be required to register with the CT Department of Public Health. At this time, CT DPH is still working out the details of how this will be done. DPH has advised us that this registration will be done online and should just require some basic information. We will let you know more about this registration once we have more details.

We will be working with you to make the transition as smooth as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203-264-9616, extension 2 or at mona.labissoniere@pddh.org.