



Michigan Department of Agriculture

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Food Digest

Food and Dairy Division Winter 2006

You Could Lose Your Food Stamp, WIC or Liquor License

If you fail to properly renew your MDA Food Establishment license, you risk losing your food stamp, WIC and/or liquor license.

MDA has teamed up with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Community Health's WIC program and the Liquor Control Commission to share information regarding delinquent MDA licensees. Anyone who is found operating without an MDA Food Establishment license, or failing to renew their Food Establishment license, will be reported to these 3 partner agencies. All 3 agencies have said that a valid MDA Food Establishment license is *required* in order to obtain authorization to accept food stamps (bridge cards) or WIC, or to sell liquor. If you do not have a valid MDA license and are reported to any of these agencies, you risk losing your ability to participate in these important programs.

Don't lose your Food Stamp, WIC or Liquor license because you let your MDA Food Establishment license expire!

2005 Food Code

MDA is soliciting input from stakeholders about whether to adopt the 2005 Food Code. The Michigan Food Law currently adopts the 1999 Food Code, so legislation would be needed to adopt the 2005 version. Changes include clarification of employee health requirements and date marking. You can view the 2005 Food Code and a list of changes at: www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/foodcode.html

Results of Baseline Risk Survey

In August 2005, MDA released the results of a baseline survey of foodborne illness risk factors at retail food establishments (grocery stores and restaurants). MDA has a goal to reduce the prevalence of the major foodborne illness risk factors in food establishments by 25 percent by late 2010.

Overall, the food industry does a very good job of handling food safely. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the practices evaluated were rated as being in compliance.

The 2005 baseline survey results showed that the two foodborne illness risk factor categories most often out of compliance are:

- **Improper Holding** (69% of establishments had poor cooling or hot holding practices, or were not date marking or discarding food as required).
- **Poor Personal Hygiene** (in 44% of establishments, hands were not being properly washed and barehand contact was not adequately addressed).

Contact MDA Food and Dairy Division for full survey results, at (517) 373-1060.

2005 Enforcement

In 2005, MDA issued 107 administrative fines to food establishments totaling \$32,030. Fines are usually issued when critical Food Code violations remain uncorrected on follow up visits or when insanitary conditions or adulterated food are discovered on a routine inspection. Criminal warrants were issued against 15 food establishments with fines totaling \$10,815. Some of the most frequent categories of violations that warranted fines or court action were:

- Failure to obtain/renew a license
- Adulterated food
- Insanitary conditions
- Failure to maintain proper temperature
- Lack of pest control

Emergency Preparedness and Food Defense

Food retailers face increased challenges to consistently meet legal requirements during emergency incidents. MDA, food industry companies and associations, and public health agencies have collaborated to develop practical tools that food establishment managers can use:

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1. To improve store-level responses to some of the more common emergencies; and,
2. To improve coordination between store employees and government emergency responders.

These tools include the **Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for Retail Food Establishments** and the **Flip Chart of Emergency Procedures for Retail Food Establishments**. The second resource complements the first and is in a highly visual and easy-to-use format. Both documents are available from the MDA Web site at www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1568--,00.html (The **EAP** is available in four languages: Arabic, Chinese, English and Spanish).

MDA strongly encourages food establishment managers to take time to identify which preventive and response actions are most appropriate for their specific situations.

MSU Product Center Offers Help for Food Businesses

Whether you are a budding entrepreneur or an established company, you can take advantage of the services offered by the MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Product Center offers assistance on product, market, and business innovation to improve economic opportunities in Michigan. The Product Center can help you develop and commercialize high value, consumer-responsive products and businesses. It offers technical expertise, research, outreach, and educational services using a network of professionals from MSU and partnering organizations. These counselors are located around Michigan and will assist businesses at any phase of development from a basic idea, to identifying markets, developing innovative new products, business expansion, helping make critical go/no-go decisions, and providing guidance from market to start-up. For more information, visit the Product Center's Web site: www.aec.msu.edu/product/



Consumer Complaint Hotline

If you or your consumers see a problem with food, please report the issue to MDA's Food and Dairy Division at:
1-800-292-3939

All Food Processors are required to register with the Food and Drug Administration

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that the owner or operator of a wholesale facility that manufactures/processes, packs or holds food for consumption in the U.S. must register the facility. This applies to limited food processors, as well as large food processors. Even if you are a small manufacturer of commodities like maple syrup, apple cider, or honey, you are required to register with the FDA. You can register on-line, by fax, or by mail. Visit www.cfsan.fda.gov/~furls/subaccount for more information.

Michigan Food Policy Council

The Michigan Food Policy Council (MFPC) was created by Governor Granholm through Executive Order and funded in partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The MFPC brings diverse food-related stakeholders together to recommend programs and policies to the Governor that improve Michigan's food future. The MFPC is unique in its focus on the food system as an economic development strategy, while explicitly linking to the state's agricultural production, public health and community well-being.

The MFPC consists of 21 members representing a broad spectrum of government and non-governmental entities. Additional information can be found on the MDA Web site at www.michigan.gov/mda.

Food & Dairy Division Regional Offices

Region 1 – Upper Peninsula

Escanaba, MI (906) 786-5462

Region 2 – Northern

Traverse City, MI (231) 922-5210

Region 3 – West Central

Grand Rapids, MI (616) 356-0600

Region 4 – East Central

Saginaw, MI (989) 757-7501

Region 5 - Southwest

St Joseph, MI (269) 428-2546

Region 6 – South Central

Lansing, MI (517) 373-1060

Region 7 - Detroit

Southfield, MI (248) 356-1700