



INDUSTRY BULLETIN

for Florida's Food Service Industry



ATTENTION: DBPR Licensed Public Food Service Establishments

Number: 2004--02

Date: 2004 July 8

SUBJECT: Food Service Employee Food Safety Training Information

Florida law provides it is the duty of each public food service establishment licensed by DBPR to provide food safety training to all their food service employees [see *section 509.049, Florida Statutes*]. New requirements in this law are effective July 1, 2004, and include the following:

FOR ALL DBPR LICENSED PUBLIC FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

- Each food service employee must be food safety training certified every 3 years.
- Must provide proof of employee food safety training upon request at the time of inspection.
- Proof of training for each food service employee must include 1) name of the trained employee, 2) date of birth of the trained employee, 3) date the training occurred, 4) approved food safety training program used, 5) name of certified food manager(s) that conducted the training, and 6) date the 3 year certification expires.
- The establishment may designate *any* certified food service manager to conduct the training.
- A food safety training program approved by DBPR must be used. No programs may be considered for approval by DBPR after September 1, 2004.

FOR ALL "THIRD PARTY PROVIDERS"

- Third Party Providers must issue an original certificate for each employee certified as trained by the provider to the food service establishment.
- Third Party Providers shall issue an original card to each food safety certified employee.
- Cards and certificates, as originally issued, must be available upon request by DBPR, such as at the time of inspection.
- Effective January 1, 2005, the following information must be reported electronically to DBPR - in a format prescribed by DBPR – within 30 days of employee certification or re-certification by a third party provider
 - Name of the certified food service employee
 - Employee's date of birth
 - Name of the food service establishment
 - Name of the certified food manager who conducted the training
 - Date the training occurred
 - Date the employee food safety training 3-year certification expires.

FOR "IN-HOUSE," PROPRIETARY TRAINING

A food service establishment training its employees using a DBPR approved program and its own certified food manager(s) to provide the training, is exempt from electronic reporting, card and certificate requirements.

FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE TRAINING REMINDER

Although new requirements have recently been enacted, requirements for employee food safety training at DBPR licensed food service establishments have existed for many years. These include task-specific food safety training for new employees or when an employee is assigned a new task.

Employees must be certified every three years. Now is the time to certify new employees or re-certify existing employees.

The Florida Restaurant Association (FRA) is the DBPR-contracted provider of required food safety training for establishments that do not have approved in-house training programs. The FRA program, called *ServSafe-with-SafeStaff*, is available by calling 1-866-FRA-EXAM (1-866-372-3926) or at www.flra.com. Other approved programs may be viewed at www.myflorida.com>find an agency>dbpr>hotels and restaurants>food employee training>list.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

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Division of Hotels and Restaurants

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