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ADOPTION OF THE FDA MODEL FOOD CODE IMPORTANT CHANGES

The Connecticut General Assembly passed a bill (Public Act 17-93) where Connecticut has adopted the **FDA Model Food Code** effective July 1, 2018. This new law results in a variety of significant changes in requirements for all food establishments in Connecticut. Portions of the FDA Food Code take effect **October 1, 2017**. The City of Hartford Health and Human Services Department (HHS), Environmental Health Division is committed to assisting our food establishments transition successfully to these new regulations. HHS will provide updates to help you better understand the changes on our website.

This notice is to inform you of these changes and provide a preliminary list of key changes that you should be aware of and begin preparing for.

October 1, 2017

- Definitions of food establishments change. Many food establishments are reclassified/redefined. (Fee schedule may be adjusted to coincide with new regulation.)
- New temperature danger zone **41 °F – 135 °F**. Cold holding **41 °F** or lower. Hot holding **135 °F** or higher (Problem areas can be sandwich units, reach-ins, walk-ins and cooling of food. We recommend checking and servicing of gaskets, compressors, fans, refrigerant and keeping lids closed.) Provide air temps of 33-37 °F to keep foods 41 °F or less.
- **HHS inspectors will record new danger zone temperatures. Will not debit new danger zone as a critical violation (cold holding and hot holding) until July 1, 2018, when new code becomes enforceable. Will continue to debit as violation at 45°- 135° for danger zone. Reinspection fees will be waived only for holding temperature violations from 10/1/2017 to 6/30/2018.**

July 1, 2018

- Qualified Food Operator (QFO) renamed as **Certified Food Protection Managers (CFPM)**. Class 2, 3 & 4 food establishments will be required to have trained **Certified Food Protection Managers**. Current **Certified Food Protection Managers (QFOs) will be required to renew expired certifications.**
- ALL food establishments must register with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) before a license can be issued or renewed by HHS.
- New inspection forms in use. Reports will no longer provide a numerical score. **Violations cited will be categorized as “Priority”, “Priority Foundation” and “Core” which align with risks of that violation as it relates to foodborne illness.**

HHS is committed to work with you throughout this transition and will continue to provide updates, and answer questions. Email us with your business name, business address, and email address at environmentalhealth@hartford.gov so we may inform you of environmental health/public health alerts and updates that impact your food service establishment. **We encourage you to work with our HHS inspectors and begin reviewing information currently available in preparation for this important transition. For more information go to: www.hartford.gov/hhs/.**

10/2017

Prevent. Promote. Protect.