



Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Environmental Health

Senate Bill 602 California Food Handler Law

Pursuant to SB 602 enacted into law in 2010, food handlers, as defined, will be required to obtain a food handler card after taking an approved food safety training course and passing an examination. The compliance date is July 1, 2011. Stakeholders, industry and government entities have suggested clarification language through pending legislation (SB 303). This pending legislation (SB 303), if approved, makes technical changes regarding various definitions and clarifies approved training entities. To allow time for these clarifications to be adopted, the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) recommends that from July 1, 2011 until January 1, 2012, enforcement of the California Food Handler Law be limited to education and notification. The proposed statutory clarifications (SB 303), if approved by the Governor, would:

- **Before January 1, 2012** allow a food handler to obtain a card from either:
 - (1) an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) accredited training provider meeting ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) standard E2659-09, or
 - (2) a food protection manager certification organization per Section 113947.3 H&SC
 - a. Currently, the following organizations are approved:
 - i. National Registry of Food Safety Professionals (online training at www.nrsfp.com or www.hrtsonline.net)
 - ii. National Restaurant Association (online training at www.FoodHandlerUSA.com)
 - iii. Prometric
- **After January 1, 2012** – Food handler cards may **only** be obtained from an ANSI accredited training provider that meets ASTM E2659-09.

City of Berkeley Environmental Health Division has adopted these recommendations and will issue only advisory and educational notifications from July 1, 2011 through January 1, 2012. Stakeholders and other interested parties are urged to read the CCDEH guidelines.

To view the CCDEH Guidelines on SB 602 implementation, and frequently asked questions, please visit: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=6104>