

State of Michigan



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DATE: February 7, 2002

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn.: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian

FROM: Food Service Sanitation Section
Food and Dairy Division

SUBJECT: Food Banks as an Approved Source of Food

MDA has been contacted by a Michigan food bank that is concerned that local health department food inspector's are incorrectly citing mildly damaged or out-of-date food containers as being in violation of the Food Code and Food Law.

Local health departments should be aware that the food banks are an approved food source and are inspected by MDA staff as a food warehouse. MDA regional offices are available for consultation about questions related to food wholesomeness, packaging defects, food sources, or the meaning of package dates.

Staff may also wish to review the following:

- Food Law section 289.8107, specifically subsection 4 & 5 and
- Food Code section 3-202.15.

KB:NDF:khg

cc: Robert Scranton, MDCH
John M. Arnold, Gleaners Food Bank