

DATE: March 2, 2001

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

FROM: Allen L. Anderson, Food Service Specialist
Food Service Sanitation Section
Food and Dairy Division

SUBJECT: Question Concerning Number of Hours For Approved Manager Certification Programs

Recently, the question has arisen concerning the amount of time (in teacher-student contact hours) required for students in MDA approved food service manager certification courses. For example: are students that are taking an approved managers certification course, such as ServSafe, required to have a certain number of hours (such as 8, or 16, or 30) of student teacher contact time, or can they take an approved examination after taking a home study course?

The answer is all may be correct: it depends upon course requirements set by the approved program. The law does not state a specific time frame for student-teacher contact time. Section 2129 (1) of the Michigan Food law of 2000 states, "Upon request, the department may review and issue approval of food safety training materials and food safety training programs including, but not limited to, home-study programs and computer assisted training." As long as the student is using materials from an approved course, and then taking an examination from the approved course, they may gain the information required to take the examination using home study, a computer assisted program, or a teacher taught course with no limit on how many hours the course may be taught.

If you have questions or need clarification please contact Allen Anderson at (517) 241-0934.

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