

State of Michigan



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

Department of Agriculture

DAN WYANT, Director

Commission of Agriculture
Douglas E. Darling
James E. Maitland
William G. Pridgeon
Jordan B. Tatter
Nara M. Viau

DATE: May 24, 2001

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

FROM: Food Service Sanitation Section
Food and Dairy Division

SUBJECT: Answer to a Question on the Food Code

In keeping with MALEHA's request that answers to questions on the Food Service Sanitation Program be addressed to all Environmental Health Directors, this memorandum provides answers to a recent question concerning the meaning of the Food Code.

Question: On inspection, the first question many sanitarians are asking restaurant operators is whether or not they have food safety certification. This seems to send an incorrect message that certification is mandatory. Would you please comment?

Answer: Manager certification is not mandatory under state law, therefore, in jurisdictions without a local requirement, it is important that a sanitarian not pose this question as though it is a requirement. Nevertheless, information about manager training can be useful to the sanitarian to direct their communication and educational efforts. Thus, food establishment operators should expect this question will be asked.

If you have any questions on the meaning of particular sections of the food code, please contact the Food Service Sanitation Specialist who covers your area.

NDF:khg

cc: MDA Food Program Managers
Retail Food Advisory Board