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DATE: March 25, 2002

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

FROM: Rodger Griffith
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SUBJECT: STFU Licensing and Enforcement Issues

This spring marks the first time that Special Transitory Food Units (STFUs) will be renewing their licenses. Please remember the following when considering a license renewal:

1. If your agency doesn't have proof that the STFU asked for, and received, two (2) licensing inspections, they should not be allowed to renew their license.
2. If the STFU inspection report indicates any uncorrected violations, your agency should have begun enforcement procedures according to your enforcement policy.

In order for enforcement action to take place, the STFU field inspection report that your agency conducts during the licensing year must be sent to the licensing jurisdiction. The STFU operator must also forward a copy of all of their inspection reports to their licensing agency. These reports should have been used during the operating year to ensure that corrections were completed and properly documented.

If your agency performed licensing or routine inspections during the year, and you noted any violations on the inspection reports, and wondered if they have been corrected or if you have other concerns, please contact the licensing jurisdiction with your concerns. Remember that communication with each other will ensure that STFU units are complying with the Food Law, Section 289.6137.

An STFU committee met this past winter, and their recommendations will soon be released. One of their findings is that it would be a monumental task to keep track of all of the inspections done for all STFUs each year. And more importantly, the committee members felt that there would probably be a very low incidence of STFU operations trying to duck their responsibility by jumping from one licensing jurisdiction to another. The committee also felt that the time, effort, and cost associated with changing licensing jurisdictions each year will discourage even the most recalcitrant STFU operator.

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