

Chapter 15a

Food Safety Manager Certification Act

26-15a-101 Title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Food Safety Manager Certification Act."

Enacted by Chapter 345, 1998 General Session

26-15a-102 Definitions.

- (1) "Back country food service establishment" means a federal or state licensed back country guiding or outfitting business that:
 - (a) provides food services; and
 - (b) meets department recognized federal or state food service safety regulations for food handlers.
- (2) "Certified food safety manager" means a manager of a food service establishment who:
 - (a) passes successfully a department-approved examination;
 - (b) successfully completes, every three years, renewal requirements established by department rule consistent with original certification requirements; and
 - (c) submits to the appropriate local health department the documentation required by Section 26-15a-106.
- (3) "Food service establishment" means any place or area within a business or organization where potentially hazardous foods are prepared and intended for individual portion service and consumption by the general public, whether the consumption is on or off the premises, and whether or not a fee is charged for the food.
- (4) "Local health department" means a local health department as defined in Subsection 26A-1-102(5).
- (5) "Potentially hazardous foods" shall be defined by the department by administrative rule adopted in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

Amended by Chapter 382, 2008 General Session

26-15a-103 Duties.

In connection with this chapter:

- (1) the department shall:
 - (a) establish, by rule:
 - (i) statewide, uniform standards for certified food safety managers;
 - (ii) criteria for food safety certification examinations; and
 - (iii) other provisions necessary to implement this chapter; and
 - (b) approve food safety certification examinations; and
- (2) the local health department shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Enacted by Chapter 345, 1998 General Session

26-15a-104 Food service establishment requirements -- Enforcement -- Right of appeal.

- (1) Each food service establishment in the state shall be managed by at least one full-time certified food safety manager at each establishment site, who need not be present at the establishment site during all its hours of operation.

- (2) Within 60 days of the termination of a certified food safety manager's employment that results in the food service establishment no longer being in compliance with Subsection (1), the food service establishment shall:
 - (a) employ a new certified food safety manager; or
 - (b) designate another employee to become the establishment's certified food safety manager who shall commence a department-approved food safety manager training course.
- (3) Compliance with the 60-day time period provided in Subsection (2) may be extended by the local health department for reasonable cause, as determined by the department by rule.
- (4)
 - (a) The local health department may determine whether a food service establishment is in compliance with this section by visiting the establishment during regular business hours and requesting information and documentation about the employment of a certified food safety manager.
 - (b) If a violation of this section is identified, the local health department shall propose remedial action to bring the food service establishment into compliance.
 - (c) A food service establishment receiving notice of a violation and proposed remedial action from a local health department may appeal the notice of violation and proposed remedial action pursuant to procedures established by the local health department, which shall be essentially consistent with the provisions of Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 63G-4-402, an appeal of a local health department decision to a district court shall be conducted as an original, independent proceeding, and not as a review of the proceedings conducted by the local health department. The district court shall give no deference to the findings or conclusions of the local health department.

Amended by Chapter 382, 2008 General Session

26-15a-105 Exemptions to food service establishment requirements.

- (1) The following are not subject to the provisions of Section 26-15a-104:
 - (a) special events sponsored by municipal or nonprofit civic organizations, including food booths at school sporting events and little league athletic events and church functions;
 - (b) temporary event food services approved by a local health department;
 - (c) vendors and other food service establishments that serve only commercially prepackaged foods and beverages as defined by the department by rule;
 - (d) private homes not used as a commercial food service establishment;
 - (e) health care facilities licensed under Chapter 21, Health Care Facility Licensing and Inspection Act;
 - (f) bed and breakfast establishments at which the only meal served is a continental breakfast as defined by the department by rule;
 - (g) residential child care providers;
 - (h) child care providers and programs licensed under Chapter 39, Utah Child Care Licensing Act;
 - (i) back country food service establishments;
 - (j) an event that is sponsored by a charitable organization, if, at the event, the organization:
 - (i) provides food to a disadvantaged group free of charge; and
 - (ii) complies with rules established by the department under Subsection (3); and
 - (k) a lowest risk or permitted food establishment category determined by a risk assessment evaluation established by the department by administrative rule adopted in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

- (2) Nothing in this section may be construed as exempting a food service establishment described in Subsection (1) from any other applicable food safety laws of this state.
- (3) The department may establish additional requirements, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, for charitable organizations providing food for free under Subsection (1)(j).

Amended by Chapter 327, 2014 General Session

26-15a-106 Certified food safety manager.

- (1) Before a person may manage a food service establishment as a certified food safety manager, that person shall submit documentation in the format prescribed by the department to the appropriate local health department indicating a passing score on a department-approved examination.
- (2) To continue to manage a food service establishment, a certified food safety manager shall:
 - (a) successfully complete, every three years, renewal requirements established by department rule which are consistent with original certification requirements; and
 - (b) submit documentation in the format prescribed by the department within 30 days of the completion of renewal requirements to the appropriate local health department.
- (3) A local health department may deny, revoke, or suspend the authority of a certified food safety manager to manage a food service establishment or require the completion of additional food safety training courses for any one of the following reasons:
 - (a) submitting information required under Subsection (1) or (2) that is false, incomplete, or misleading;
 - (b) repeated violations of department or local health department food safety rules; or
 - (c) operating a food service establishment in a way that causes or creates a health hazard or otherwise threatens the public health, safety, or welfare.
- (4) A determination of a local health department made pursuant to Subsection (3) may be appealed by a certified food safety manager in the same manner provided for in Subsection 26-15a-104(4).
- (5) No person may use the title "certified food safety manager," or any other similar title, unless the person has satisfied the requirements of this chapter.
- (6) A local health department:
 - (a) may not charge a fee to accept or process the documentation described in Subsections (1) and (2);
 - (b) shall accept photocopies or electronic copies of the documentation described in Subsections (1) and (2); and
 - (c) shall allow an individual to submit the documentation described in Subsections (1) and (2) by mail, email, or in person.

Amended by Chapter 189, 2020 General Session

26-15a-107 Duties.

Certified food safety managers shall:

- (1) establish and monitor compliance with practices and procedures in the food service establishments where they are employed to maintain compliance with department and local health department food safety rules; and
- (2) perform such other duties that may be necessary to ensure food safety in the food service establishments where they are employed.

Enacted by Chapter 345, 1998 General Session