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California Food Handler Card Law

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California Retail Food Code, sections 113790 and 113948 requires food handlers to have a **California Food Handler Card** within 30 days of being hired. Cards will be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance. Employees that have a valid Food Manager Certificate do not also need a Food Handler Card. Employers are required to maintain documentation of their employee's food handler cards. The Food Handler Card is transferrable between employers and will be recognized throughout California.

❶ Who has to have a California Food Handler Card?

- Chefs
- Bussers
- Beverage pourers
- Cooks
- Bartenders
- Supervisory personnel
- Mobile Food Facility that prepares food
- Wait Staff
- Host/hostesses that handle food

Any food employee at a subject facility who handles food or beverages in any way must obtain a food handler card unless he or she is already food safety certified.

❷ Who is exempt from obtaining a California Food Handler Card?

- Certified Farmer's Markets
- School Cafeteria's (Public or Private)
- Licensed Health Care Facilities
- Grocery Stores
- Convenience Stores
- Food Booths at community events
- Drug Stores
- Commissaries
- Venues with snack bars in which the majority of sales are from admission tickets, sit-down eating areas excluded
- Food facilities with approved in-house training*
- Food facilities subject to a collective bargaining agreement
- Bed & Breakfast facilities
- Elderly nutrition program run by CA Dept of Aging
- Any person with a valid food managers certificate
- Volunteers w/o compensation

*** In-house training course must be approved pursuant to Subpart 2-103.11 of the 2001 Model Food Code, the food facility must provide evidence of approval, and food handler card training must be provided during normal work hours at no cost to the employee.**

❸ How can I find an approved food handler class?

The only class providers that are allowed to offer the California Food Handler class are listed on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) website. New providers are continually being added. Click the following link or enter it into your web browser for the most recent list of classes:

<http://tinyurl.com/CalCard>

For more information please contact our department at (209) 468-3420.