

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO TFER PURPOSE & DEFINITIONS

General:

- Changed Chapter citations from §229 to §228.
- Changed format of definitions to reflect current rulemaking standards
- Updated agency information
- Updated definitions required by State statutes
- As per FDA, eliminated references to PHFs and included Time/Temp Control for Safety (TCS) food where applicable.
- Transition to Priority Item Violation and Priority Foundation Violation from Critical Violation. All terms will appear together.
- Transition from Non-Critical Violation to Core Item Violation. All terms will appear together

Subchapter A. General Provisions

§228.1 Purpose.

Changed purpose to include reference to State statutes and FDA.

§228.2 Definitions.

- (1) Added FDA definition of “Accredited program”
 - (5) Added definition of “Asymptomatic”
 - (7) Added definition of “Balut”
 - (8) Added definition of “Bare hand contact”
 - (9), (10) & (11) Separated definitions of different Bed and Breakfast types.
 - (15) Added Definition “Central Preparation Facility”
- Eliminated definition of “child care center”.

(18) Added definition of “Clostridium botulinum”.

Deleted definition of “Cottage food”.

(20) Added definition of “Color Additive”.

(24) Added definition of “Conditional Employee”.

(27) Added definition of “Controlled atmosphere packaging”.

(28) Added definition of “Cook chill packaging”.

(29) Added definition for “Core Items”.

(31) Added definition of “Counter-mounted equipment”.

(34) Changed definition of “Cut leafy greens” to include "this does not include the harvest cut. See (75) – definition of “Leafy greens”.

As per FDA deleted definition of “Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli”.

(43) Added definition of “Egg product”.

(47) Changed the definition of Event to include the terms: civic, political, public or educational and changed wording to include “would” grant permission to clarify the term events.

Eliminated the definition “farmer’s market”.

(52) Amended the definition of food establishment to include micro-markets. (See definition (149) referring to vending machines.)

(53) Added definition of “Food Additive”.

(57)(a) Changed definitions of food establishment to include terms: location, machine, micro-Market

(59) Added definition of “Food Protection Manager Certification”.

(65) Changed the definition of “Handwashing sink” to limit use for handwashing only.

(67) Added definition of “Health Practitioner”.

(75) Added definition of “leafy greens”.

(76) Added definition for “License”.

- (77) Added definition for “License holder”.
- (79) Added definition for “Listeria monocytogenes”.
- (81) Added definition of “Major Food Allergen”.
- (82) Changed definition of “Meat” to remove reference to “wild game animals and to include reference to definition of “game animals”.
- (83) Added definition of “Mechanically tenderized”.
- (85) Added definition for “Mobile Food Unit”
- (86) Added definition of “Modified atmosphere packaging”.
- (87) Added definition of “Molluscan shellfish”.
- (88) Added definition of “Non-continuous cooking”.
- (89) Included definition of Non-Time/Temperature control for safety food (NTCS)
- (95) Added PIC to definition of “Person in charge”.
- (99) Added definition of “Plumbing code”
- Eliminated definition of “Potentially hazardous foods”.
- (106) Added definition of “Priority item”
- (107) Added definition for “Priority Foundation Item”
- (109) Added a definition of “Psychrotrophic organisms”.
- (111) Added “is readily movable by one or two people and this type of mobile unit requires the support of central preparation facility” for “pushcart”.
- (112) Added definition for “ratite”.
- (118) Added Definition for “Re-Service”
- (123) Included roadside food vendor as a mobile food establishment.
- (128) Changed definition of “Service animal” to ADA definition.
- (133) Added acronym “STEC”

- (139) Added a definition of “Sous vide packaging”.
- (140) Added a definition of “Specialized processing method”.
- (144) Added Definition of Time/ Temperature control.
- (147) Added definition of “Vacuum packaging”.
- (149) Changed definition of “Vending machine” and exclude vending machines with NTCS and pre-packaged NTCS foods.

Subchapter B - Management and Personnel

§228.33 Certified Food Protection Manager and Food Handler Requirements

- Added new requirements for Certified Food Protection Manager (CFM) that requires at least one employee be a CFM
- Added a new requirement that all food employees shall successfully complete a food handler training course, accredited by the department, within 60 days of employment. Takes effect on September 1, 2016.
- Added requirements for the “original” certified food protection manager certificate being posted conspicuous to customer’s location.
- Added requirement for food handler certificates to be located on site.

§228.35 Responsibilities and Reporting Symptoms and Diagnosis

- This section was significantly revised to reflect the requirements for Conditions of Exclusions and Restrictions in accordance with the 2013 FDA Model Food Code by grouping together are responsibilities and requirements.
- Responsibility of Permit Holder, Person in Charge, and Conditional Employees now in 6 diagnosed illnesses. Norovirus, Hepatitis A, Shigella, STEC, and Salmonella typhi, now includes nontyphoidal Salmonella.

§228.36 Conditions of Exclusions and Restrictions

- This section was significantly revised to reflect the requirements for Conditions of Exclusions and Restrictions in accordance with the 2013 FDA Model Food Code.

§228.37 Managing Exclusions and Restrictions

- This section was significantly revised to reflect the requirements for Managing Exclusions and Restrictions in accordance with the 2013 FDA Model Food Code.

§228.38 Hands and Arms

- Provision added for the use of a disposable paper towel or similar clean barrier when touching surfaces such as manually operated faucets.
- Inclusion of “surrogate prosthetic devices” for hands and arms.
- Hand antiseptics must now meet specific requirement for use.
- Inclusion of using a “clean barrier” to touch surfaces after proper handwashing.

§228.45 Contamination Events

- Added new Section “Contaminations Events” for the clean-up of vomit and diarrheal events in a food establishment.

Subchapter C - Food

§228.62 Approved Sources

- Inclusion of “wild mushrooms” for sale or service by a food establishment.

§228.63 Specifications for Receiving

- Examples of evidence of previous temperature abuse provided.

§228.64 Molluscan Shellfish, Original Container and Records

- Shellstock tags must now be labeled with date the last shellstock from the container was served and maintain 90 days from that date.

§228.65 Preventing contamination by employees

- Added the requirement that the permit holder must obtain prior approval from the regulatory authority before conducting bare hand contact activities with ready-to-eat foods.

§228.66 Preventing food and ingredient contamination

- Frozen, commercially processed and packaged raw animal foods may now be stored or displayed with or above frozen, commercially processed and packaged ready-to-eat food.

§228.68 Preventing contamination from equipment, utensils, and linens.

- Single use disposable sanitizer wipes may now be used if done in accordance with EPA approved manufacturer's label use instructions. These may not be used in lieu of wash, rinse, and sanitizing.
- Take-home food establishment containers may now be reused if they are constructed for reuse, provided by the food establishment, returned to the food establishment after use, visually inspected by the food establishment before reuse and properly washed, rinsed, and sanitized before refilling.
- Take home containers for beverages may be refilled if it is a non-TCS food, the container is durable for cleaning at home or in food establishment, and is filled by the owner only if a system exists that allows a contamination free refill.

§228.71 Cooking

- Non-continuous cooking now only requires a re-heat, not to 165°F as previously required for all reheats, but only to the required cooking temperature for that particular food.

§228.72 Freezing

- Freezing for parasite destruction includes a new provision allowing storage for destruction at -20°F or below for a minimum of 24 hours.
- If specific fish, listed in (a)(2)(C) of this section, are raised and fed for service or sold as raw, raw-marinated, partially cooked, or marinated-partially cooked fish in ready-to-eat form, a written agreement or statement from the supplier or aquaculturist shall be provided and maintained for 90 days.

§228.75 Temperature and time control

- More requirements were added for “time as a public health control” for cold foods. Cold foods may now be held without temperature control for up to 6 hours or up to 70°F if removed from refrigeration at 41°F, documented and monitored.

§228.77 Clostridium botulinum and Listeria monocytogenes controls

- This section was significantly revised to reflect the requirements for Clostridium botulinum and Listeria monocytogenes control in accordance with the 2013 FDA Model Food Code
- Reduced oxygen packaging (ROP) previously had one category (double barrier) and is now divided into three categories; double barrier, single barrier (cook-chill and sous vide)

and 48 hour ROP. All categories would have previously required a HACCP plan but now 48 hour ROP does not.

§228.79 Labeling

- Added new requirements for food labeling for major food allergens to be in the ingredients unless stated in the common name.

Subchapter D. Equipment, Utensils, and Linens

§228.105 Accuracy of temperature measuring devices, food.

- Pressure measuring devices for mechanical warewashing equipment are now required to register in the range indicated on the manufacturer's data plate instead of previous being required to register in a range of 15-25.

§228.111 Equipment, maintenance and operation.

- Added requirements for sanitizing chemicals, constituted on site at the food establishment, meeting the concentration requirements of this section.

§228.112 Utensils and temperature and pressure measuring devices.

- Food temperature measuring devices now must be calibrated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

§228.125 Preventing Contamination

- Exposed, unused tableware must now be changed between customers or washed, rinsed and sanitized if used.
- Added language for usage of chemically treated towelettes: "If approved by the regulatory authority, when no food exposure exists and handwashing sinks are not conveniently available, such as in some Mobile Food Units or temporary food establishments or at some vending machine locations, employees may use chemically treated towelettes for handwashing."

Subchapter E. Water, Plumbing, and Waste.

§228.146. Plumbing design, construction, and installation.

- Changed the requirement for plumbing systems from according to law to according to the plumbing code (see definitions section).

§228.147. Plumbing, numbers and capacities.

- Added a restriction that states toilets, urinals, and showers cannot be used as a service sink.

§228.149 Plumbing operations and maintenance.

- Mobile food establishment inlet tanks must now be labeled as "Potable Water".

Subchapter F. Physical Facilities.

§228.173 Floors, walls and ceilings.

- Added words “anti-slip floor coverings” requirements in food establishments.

§228.174. Functionality.

- Added section for toilet room exceptions that do not require a tight-fitting and self-closing door if located outside a food establishment or such as a shopping mall.
- Outdoor servicing areas will now require overhead protection.

§228.175. Handwashing sinks.

- New provisions allowing for automatic hand washing facilities if approved by the regulatory authority.
- For mobile food operations and temporary food operations, if approved by the regulatory authority, when food exposure is limited, employees may use chemically treated towelettes for handwashing.
- Hand drying device that employs an air-knife system that delivers high velocity, pressurized air at ambient temperatures are now allowed.

§228.177 Lighting, intensity.

- Minimum light intensity requirements were changed for walk-in refrigeration units, dry storage areas, buffets, salad bars, reach-in and under counter refrigerators, area for ware washing, equipment storage and toilet rooms.

§228.186 Premises, building, systems, room, fixtures, equipment, devices, and materials.

- New language requiring plumbing fixtures such as handwashing sinks, toilets, and urinals to be cleaned as often as necessary to keep them clean.
- New language requiring the presence of insects, rodents, and other pests be controlled to eliminate their presence

Subchapter G. Poisonous or Toxic Materials.

§228.206 Chemicals.

- Chemicals used to wash or peel raw, whole vegetables must be approved additive and now include Ozone as an approved antimicrobial agent.

§228.210 First aid supplies. Availability.

- Added section requiring a first aid kit in food establishments.

Subchapter H. Requirements Applicable to Certain Establishments.

§228.221. Mobile Food Units, Requirements

- Added a paragraph requiring Mobile Food Units (MFU) to demonstrate they are readily moveable at license renewal.
- During the initial permitting of a mobile food establishment they must provide documentation of a Certified Food Protection Manager Certification, an approved central preparation facility, if needed, a copy of the last central preparation facility inspection report, a servicing area authorization, and a menu.
- MFU's must demonstrate equipment for cooling and heating food, and holding cold and hot food are sufficient in number and capacity to provide food temperatures.
- Mobile food establishment outlet tanks must now be labeled as "Waste Water".
- Toilet rooms shall be conveniently located and accessible to employees during all hours of operation.
- Removed requirement for a signed letter of authorization to “may” require, allowing the regulatory authority the ability to require signed letters of authorization.

§228.222. Temporary Food Establishments.

- Foods that are not prepared on site or that require extensive preparation or cooking must be prepared at a licensed food establishment.
- Temporary establishments may be required by the regulatory authority to have at least one person on site that has an accredited food handler certification.
- Added “tarps” as an example of suitable materials.

§228.223. Bed and Breakfast.

- Title of Section changed from Bed and Breakfast Extended Establishments to Bed and Breakfast.
- Added a Certified Food Manager requirement for Bed and Breakfast Limited Establishments.

§228.225 Micro Markets. - New Section Name change to Self Service Food Market

- New section added for Self-Service Food Markets (Micro Markets) and Requirements.
- Added requirement for providing video surveillance tapes for a period of fourteen (14) calendar days.

Subchapter I. Compliance

§228.244. Facility and Operating Plans

- Added new paragraphs that deal with plan review and the context of plans and specifications. The wording in these sections were changed from shall to may.

§228.249 Inspection Frequency performance-based and risk-based.

- Added new language changing to risk based inspection intervals to allow a risk-based inspection interval other than every 6 months as long as specific provisions are met.
- New language requiring the regulatory authority to periodically inspect temporary food establishments.

§228.251 Report of Findings.

- Critical items changed to “critical violations/priority items, priority foundation and /core/ non-critical items.” Updated to use of priority items, priority foundation items and core items by removing “critical violations and non-critical items”.

§228.253 Priority Item/Priority Foundation Item/Critical violations, time frame for correction.

- New requirement for permit holder to correct violations within 72 hours for priority items. Language changed to reflect three (3) days instead of 72 hours to be consistent throughout the document.

- New requirement for permit holder to correct violations within 10 days for priority foundation items.

§228.254 Core Items violations, time frame for correction.

- New requirement for permit holder to correct violation within 90 days or the next inspections (whichever comes first).

§229.173. Heimlich maneuver Poster. - Section Removed. (TFER 2006)

Subchapter J. Private Water Systems - New Subchapter provisions about Private Water Wells.

- The Texas Food Establishment rules contain no provisions to ensure safe drinking water systems at Food Establishments utilizing private, non-regulated water wells.
- Food Establishments with private water wells not regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality may need to upgrade their systems to meet new water supply regulations. This may include installing an automatic chlorinator and periodically testing the water quality (every months bacteriological testing estimated to be \$10/month/operating month and \$100/every three years for a chemical analysis).