

INDUSTRY BULLETIN

for Florida's Food Service & Lodging Industries



SUBJECT: 2015 Legislative Changes

Bulletin 2015-01

July 01, 2015

This bulletin is provided to aid in compliance with Florida law, and is not intended to be legal advice. While care has been taken to ensure its accuracy, in the event of conflict the actual statute or administrative rule will prevail.

On July 01, 2015, recent legislative changes will become effective. Food service and lodging operators licensed by the Division should carefully review these changes to ensure they are in compliance.

A few major changes are discussed below.

RISK-BASED INSPECTION FREQUENCY REASSESSMENT

The division inspects all public food service establishments according to the risk-based inspection frequency adopted by rule 61C-1.002.F.A.C., as required by Florida Statute.

Under the risk-based inspection frequency requirements, food service establishments are categorized by risk levels rated one through four. Assigned risk levels directly coincide with how many inspections establishments are required to undergo each year.

An establishment's initial classification is assigned upon annual inspection or upon application for a license and verified at the licensing inspection.

Rule 61C-1.002, F.A.C., requires the division to reassess each establishment's inspection frequency classification and reclassify an establishment as necessary. The inspection frequency, determined by multiple factors, can now be reassessed as often as needed.

DELINQUENT LICENSE FEES

Public food service and lodging establishments are required to renew their licenses annually. If the license is not renewed by the expiration date, the licensee is assessed a delinquent fee. The delinquent license renewal fee is now set at a flat rate of \$50.00 for all license renewals that occur within 60 days after expiration.

TEMPORARY FOOD SERVICE EVENT LICENSES

The Division licenses and inspects public food service establishments and food vendors at temporary food service events. Public food service establishments holding current licenses from the Division may now operate one unit at temporary food service events without obtaining a separate license regardless of the duration of the event.

FOOD SERVICE AND LODGING REPORTS

Notices served by the Division are currently provided by hard copy. The Division may now deliver electronic copies of lodging and food service establishment inspection reports to operators. Operators may maintain inspection reports in any format, including electronic, as long as the report can be readily retrieved upon public request or inspection by the Division.

VETERANS ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging establishments classified as a hotel, motel or bed and breakfast inn are required to waive any minimum age policy it may have that restricts accommodations to individuals based on age for those who are currently on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, Reserve Forces, or Coast Guard and who present a valid military identification card.

Detailed information on these subjects is available on our website at <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/hr/forms/hr-publications.html>.

Operators may call the Customer Contact Center at 850.487.1395 or contact local District Offices for questions or additional information. Locate your District Office at <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/hr/contact.html>.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Rick Scott, *Governor*

Division of Hotels and Restaurants

Ken Lawson, *Secretary*