



Michigan Department of Agriculture

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Food Digest

Food and Dairy Division Winter 2009

www.michigan.gov/mda

Late License Submittals

Please remember to submit your license application on time this year. Each year, a small percentage of businesses place themselves in the unfortunate position of having to pay late fees and fines, or even receive closure orders because their food establishment license was not renewed on time. All food establishment licenses expire on April 30 each year.

Late fees and fines are progressive and may include:

- \$100 late fee (\$10/day)
- \$400 fine (1st year late)
- \$800 fine (2nd year late)
- Closure order and legal action

Tips for avoiding late penalties:

- Place a reminder on your calendar ahead of April 30 to give yourself time to mail the renewal application and fee.
- If you have not received a renewal application in the mail by March 30, call the MDA Licensing Unit to check that the correct address is listed and request another application be sent.
- Be sure to mail the renewal so it is postmarked before April 30.
- When notified, promptly submit any late fee in order to avoid additional fines and penalties.

Your food establishment license must be conspicuously posted. For additional information or questions, contact the MDA Licensing Unit at **517-241-6666**.

Michigan Business One Stop

A new state web site provides a one-stop approach to doing business with the State of Michigan. For more information on this new web site visit www.michigan.gov/businesslicense.

Receive Food Recall Alerts

Are you keeping up on current food recalls that may affect your business? Sign up to receive recall alerts by e-mail or text message at www.michigan.gov/mdaalerts.

Reducing the Risk of Foodborne Illness

Do you know how to keep foodborne illness from affecting your customers? A 2008 Michigan survey shows that three foodborne illness risk factors occur most often in establishments. To avoid foodborne illness focus on:

- **Maintaining excellent personal hygiene**
 - Keep ill staff from working and assure proper handwashing.
- **Maintaining proper food holding temperatures**
 - Keep cold food below 41°F or hot food above 135°F.
- **Keeping equipment and surfaces that touch food clean and sanitized**

Manager Certification

The Michigan food law has been updated to require that certain establishments employ a certified manager by June 30, 2009. You will be allowed a reasonable period of time beyond June 30, 2009 to provide a certified manager, if needed. MDA inspected establishments that must have a certified manager include:

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- **A food service establishment within a retail grocery.** Examples include: submarine sandwiches for immediate service, fried chicken by the piece, hamburgers, tacos, hand dipped ice cream, wineries with substantial food service and “you buy, we fry” fish and meat operations.
- **Extended retail food establishments.** These are typically grocery stores with a deli and seating.
- **Establishments that press apple cider.** Cider establishments shall have at least one active employee currently certified by passing an approved food manager certification examination or having completed a current approved safe cider production course. Michigan State University is developing a specialized cider course or you may complete a typical manager certification course. Additional course information may be found at michiganappleassociation.com.

To locate courses and exams please visit our manager certification resource page at www.michigan.gov (type “manager certification” in the search box) or call your local health department for information on classes in your area. Most face-to-face classes are approximately 16 hours long with an exam at the end of the class.

Temporary Fair License Fees

Each year, MDA tries to assist returning temporary establishment operators at county fair events by mailing a renewal license packet each spring. New temporary fair establishment applicants may download a Michigan food establishment license application at www.michigan.gov/licensing.

Send the application in advance of your county fair event to save money and allow your food inspector to plan for your inspection. A food establishment

license for your temporary event costs only \$28.00. Applying for a license less than four days before opening increases the cost to \$56.00.

Emergency Rapid Response Team

Michigan was selected by the Food and Drug Administration as one of six states to develop an emergency Rapid Response Team (RRT). This competitive grant will allow MDA to build on and improve its efforts in prevention, preparedness, training, and response related to food and feed emergencies, as well as work to reduce the possibility that any Michigan produced food or feed product may be a source of illness.

Shellfish Certification Available

Good news for all shellfish shippers! As of December 2008, Michigan is a registered participating state with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference. Two Michigan firms are already certified and have started shipping shellfish to other states. Certification is free of charge but needs to meet the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance requirements. For more information, contact MDA.

Food and Dairy Division Regional Offices

Region 1 – Upper Peninsula

Escanaba, MI • 231-922-5210

Region 2 – Northern

Traverse City, MI • 231-922-5210

Region 3 – West Central

Grand Rapids, MI • 616-356-0600

Region 4 – East Central

Saginaw, MI • 989-757-7501

Region 5 – Southwest

St Joseph, MI • 269-428-2546

Region 6 – South Central

Lansing, MI • 517-373-1060

Region 7 – Detroit

Detroit, MI • 313-456-1300



Consumer Complaint Hotline

If you, or your consumers see a food-related problem, please report the issue to the MDA Food and Dairy Division at: **800-292-3939** or through the MDA website.

www.michigan.gov/mda