

# California Food Handler Card Law



California Retail Food Code, an excerpt from the California Health and Safety Code, section 113790 and 113948 requires food handlers to have a **California Food Handler Card (CalCard)** within 30 days of being hired. Cards are valid for three years. Employees that have a valid Food Manager Certificate do not need a Food Handler Card as well. Employers are required to maintain documentation of their employee's food handler cards. Here is information about the food handler card:

## 1 Who has to have a California Food Handler Card?

Individuals working in food facilities who are involved in preparing, storing, or handling food. This includes:

- ✓ Wait staff
- ✓ Chefs
- ✓ Cooks
- ✓ Head cooks/chefs
- ✓ Bussers
- ✓ Bartenders
- ✓ Beverage pourers (including alcohol beverage pourers)
- ✓ Host/hostesses that handle food
- ✓ Supervisory personnel
- ✓ General managers and other managers

that work in all types of restaurants, cafes, beverage facilities, smoothie facilities, bakeries, delis, mobile lunch trucks, mobile carts, bars, kiosks, and any other food facility staff that is not specifically exempt.

## 2 Who is exempt from obtaining a California Food Handler Card?

- ✓ Temporary Food Facilities (food booths at community events)
- ✓ Certified farmer's markets
- ✓ School cafeterias (public or private)
- ✓ Bed and breakfast
- ✓ Drug stores
- ✓ Commissaries
- ✓ Licensed health care facilities
- ✓ Convenience stores
- ✓ Food facilities with approved in-house training\*
- ✓ Grocery stores, and grocery store delis, bakeries, meat and produce departments all under one owner
- ✓ Facilities used for the confinement of adults or minors such as a jail, juvenile hall, camp/ranch
- ✓ Food facilities subject to collective bargaining agreement
- ✓ Venues with snack bars in which the majority of sales are from admission tickets, but does not include any area in which restaurant style sit-down service is provided
- ✓ Elderly nutrition programs administered by California Department of Aging
- ✓ Any person who has a valid Food Manager Certification
- ✓ Volunteers without compensation and who are not family

\* 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.

## 3 How can I find an approved food handler class?

The only class providers that are allowed to offer the California Food Handler Card class are listed on the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) website below. Because new providers are being added frequently, we are not providing a list as it would quickly become outdated. Most are online classes for about \$15 or less. Click the following link or enter it into your web browser for a current list of approved class providers:

<http://tiny.cc/calcard>



**NOTE:** The Fresno County Food Safety Class does NOT satisfy this new law. The Fresno County Food Safety Class is available for those that are exempt from the CalCard law and do not need a Food Manager Certification.

For more information, contact the Fresno County Environmental Health Division at 559-600-3357.