



Food Service Facilities

Fact Sheet

What Does the Law Say?

All food service facilities are required by State of Maryland regulatory code to obtain a license from the local environmental health authority.

(COMAR 10.15.03)

What is a “Food Service Facility”?

A food service facility is defined as:

- A restaurant, coffee shop, cafeteria, short order café, luncheonette, tavern, sandwich stand, soda fountain, retail market, retail bakery outlet, or mobile unit such as an ice cream truck.
- A food operation in an industry, institution, hospital, club, school, camp, church, catering kitchen, commissary, or a similar place in which food or drink is being prepared for sale or for service on the premises or elsewhere.
- Any other operation where food is served or provided for the public with or without charge.

How Does Licensing Work?

1. Fill out the application form. Find it on the web at www.smchd.org or call or come by the Health Department.
2. Then, schedule an appointment for a pre-opening inspection.
3. Finally, make any corrections required by the pre-opening inspection. Then hang up your license and sell safe, healthy food!

The fee for annual licensing is based on HACCP priority. This license is effective for one year. If your facility is designed to operate for no more than 14 days, you may be eligible for a temporary permit.

For more information...

- St. Mary's County Health Department, Environmental Health Division 301-475-4321