



### **NEW FOOD HANDLER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN ILLINOIS**

The following RESTAURANT Food Handler Training questions and answers are based on recent changes to the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Code:

**Who is considered a Food Handler?** A food handler or food employee means an individual working with unpackaged food, food equipment or utensils, or food-contact surfaces; this does not include unpaid volunteers in a food establishment.

**Who is required to have Food Handler Training?** Any food handler working in the State of Illinois is required to have training, unless that person has a valid Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) or unpaid volunteer. If someone working in a facility that is not a food handler on a regular basis, but fills in when needed, must have food handler training.

**Who is NOT required to have Food Handler Training?** Anyone working in a facility that is not a food handler by definition or any food handler that has a valid Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC).

#### **Food Handlers Working in a Restaurant**

**What is a restaurant?** "Restaurant" means any business that is primarily engaged in the sale of ready-to-eat food for immediate consumption. Where "primarily engaged" means having sales of ready-to-eat food for immediate consumption comprising of at least 51% of the total sales, excluding the sale of liquor, as defined in Section 3 of the Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act. For the purposes of this definition, restaurants would include concessions and other food service establishments where food is intended for immediate or on-site consumption.

**What is the timeline for implementation?** All food handlers working in restaurants shall have training completed by December 31, 2014. Enforcement will be limited to notification and education July 1-December 31, 2014.

**What type of training is offered for Restaurants?** Food handler courses with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval can be found on the ANSI website (see website and list on Page 2).

**How long is the ANSI certificate valid?** The ANSI food handler training certificates are good for 3 years.

**Will the ANSI certificate be valid throughout the entire State of Illinois?** Restaurant food handler training certificates are valid throughout the state, unless the training was obtained at a business through a Department approved internal training program.

**Can a "train the trainer" approach be used, where one person attend a training and they go back and teach others within their facility?** No, this would not be acceptable for food handlers working in restaurants because the food handler needs to receive the training themselves and be assessed.

## Food Handlers Working in a Restaurant

### American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Food Handler Training Courses

ANSI Approved Food Handler Program	Website	Online Price	Languages Offered Online	Classroom Option
Above Training/ StateFoodSafety.co ---	<a href="http://www.statefoodsafety.com/">http://www.statefoodsafety.com/</a>	\$10.00	English, Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese and ASL	No
eFoodhandlers, Inc.	<a href="http://www.efoodhandlers.com/">http://www.efoodhandlers.com/</a>	\$10.00	English, Spanish	No
Mindleaders, Inc.	<a href="http://www.mindleaders.com/ca-food-card/">http://www.mindleaders.com/ca-food-card/</a>	\$14.95	English, Spanish	Yes, through NEHA
National Environmental Health Assoc.	<a href="http://www.nehatraining.org/">http://www.nehatraining.org/</a>	same as above (Mindleaders)	provided online by Mindleaders/skillsoft.com	Yes
National Registry of Food Safety Professionals	<a href="http://www.envhealthtesting.com/foodhandler.aspx">http://www.envhealthtesting.com/foodhandler.aspx</a>	\$12.95	English, Spanish, and Chinese	Yes
National Restaurant Association	<a href="http://www.servsafe.com/home">http://www.servsafe.com/home</a>	\$15.00	English and Spanish	Yes
Premier Food Safety	<a href="http://www.premierfoodsafety.com/california-food-handler-card">http://www.premierfoodsafety.com/california-food-handler-card</a>	\$9.95	English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese	No
SafeFoodTest.com	<a href="http://www.safefoodtest.com/">http://www.safefoodtest.com/</a>	\$9.95	English	Yes
Safeway Certifications, LLC	<a href="http://www.safewayclasses.com/">http://www.safewayclasses.com/</a>	\$10.00-15.00	English, Spanish, Chinese/Mandarin	Yes
TAP Series	<a href="http://www.tapseries.com/index.html">http://www.tapseries.com/index.html</a>	\$15.00	English and Spanish	No
U of I Urbana-Champaign	<a href="http://idph.fshn.illinois.edu/">http://idph.fshn.illinois.edu/</a>	\$9.95	English and Spanish	No

Food handler courses with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval can be found on the ANSI website at:

<https://www.ansica.org/wwwversion2/outside/ALLdirectoryListing.asp?menuID=212&prgID=237&prgID1=238&status=4>

The course and assessment can be completed online, 24 hours/day and does not need to be monitored by an instructor. Upon passing the assessment, the certificate is immediately available to print.

**Will the State issue Food Handler certifications?** No, the State will not issue food handler certifications. The State will continue to issue the Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) only.

Updated 6 20 2014