

### NSW Food Businesses

A new food safety law commenced on 18 August 2008

The NSW Food Authority has introduced a new law in NSW which covers businesses who serve food to vulnerable persons.

The new law was developed to protect vulnerable people in the community, including older persons and people who have weakened immune systems.

If you serve prepared food to any of the following businesses you may be affected by the new law; hospitals, aged care facilities, same-day aged care services, respite services and certain delivered meal organisations such as Meals on Wheels.

Businesses covered by the new law will need to hold a NSW Food Authority licence and to have an audited food safety program in place.

For more information please access the Food Authority Website at:

<http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/industry-sector-requirements/food-service-to-vulnerable-populations/>

Does your NSW food business need to be licensed?

Certain parts of the NSW food industry are regulated under the Food Regulation 2004, including:

- businesses that handle or process meat;
- businesses that handle seafood and shellfish; and
- businesses that conduct food service to vulnerable populations.

These businesses are required to hold a NSW Food Authority licence to operate. For a licence application form contact the Authority's licensing office on (02) 6552 3000.



### Is your NSW business a “notifiable” food business?

All non licenced NSW businesses which handle food for sale are required by the Food Act 2003 to ‘notify’ the Authority of their food handling activities. This includes those involved in temporary events and businesses which sell any sort of food or food ingredient as any part of their business.

You can notify your business in either of two ways:

1. Internet: Submit your notification and keep it updated via the Internet. It is fast, free of charge and provides you with an instant certificate of confirmation. Follow instructions on how to complete your notification online at [www.foodnotify.nsw.gov.au](http://www.foodnotify.nsw.gov.au). Print out and keep the last page which will contain your reference number and password.
2. Paper form: Paper forms can be submitted to the Authority directly. All paper forms incur a processing charge of \$55.00 (GST included). Contact the Authority's Food Notification Help Desk on 1300 650 124 to obtain a form.

If you have already notified the Authority, you will have a Food Business Confirmation Reference Number. The number appears on the certificate when you submit your notification. You may be requested to demonstrate to the Authority that your food business has been notified, in which case you can quote your Food Business Confirmation Reference Number.

If you sell or close your business you will need to telephone the Authority's Food Notification Help Desk on 1300 650 124 to advise them to deactivate your notification.

There are significant fines for failing to be notified as a food business before trading commences. Since April 2004, new fines have been imposed, including up to \$55,000 (maximum penalty) for single businesses and \$275,000 (maximum penalty) for corporations (Section 100, NSW Food Act 2003).

If you are not sure whether you have ‘notified’ your food business, or you can’t find your Food Business Confirmation Reference Number you can contact the Authority's Food Notification Help Desk on 1300 650 124.

Both licensed and notifiable food businesses must comply with the relevant parts of the Food Standards Code.

For more information go to: <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/food-standards-and-requirements/business-notification/>

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