

Updates to Chapter 16 Health and Sanitation Article IV: Food Establishments

Why is this ordinance being updated?

This ordinance is being updated to align with the *Texas Administrative Code*, Title 25 Health Services, Part 1, *Department of State Health Services*, Chapter 228, *Retail Food Establishment*, known as the *Texas Food Establishment Rules* (TFER), as amended in 2021.

Who will this ordinance apply to?

This ordinance will only apply to retail food establishments that have an annual health permit with the City of Fort Worth. These text amendments will not significantly change business operations.

What edits will be made to this ordinance?

There are three (3) types of edits that will be made to this ordinance: Updates, Inclusions, and Clarifications.

1. Updates:

- a. Definitions for “Central Preparations Facility,” “employee,” “time/temperature for safety foods,” and “non potentially hazardous foods” will reflect TFER definitions.
- b. The regulatory health agencies will be changed from “Code Compliance Department” and “Health Department” to “Environmental Services Department.”
- c. The regulatory agency will be changed from “Department of Planning and Development” to “Development Services Department.”
- d. The regulatory health agencies will be changed from “Texas Department of Health” and “Texas Board of Health” to “Texas Department of State Health Services.”
- e. The definition for “adequate handwashing facilities” will further explain the requirement for having a handwashing sink within 15 feet of every food preparation and dish washing area.

2. Inclusions:

- a. The ability to sell raw frozen fish and seafood at Farmers Markets will align with regulations stated in the *Texas Administrative Code*, Title 25. Health Services, Part 1, Department of State Health Services, Chapter 229, Food and Drug, Subchapter FF *Farmers Markets*.

3. Clarifications:

- a. The redundant standards for soap dispenser, expiration date, and seafood temperature guidelines will be simplified, as specified in TFER.
- b. The requirement for transferring a Food Manager Certificate to the City of Fort Worth will align with *Texas Health and Safety Code 438.1055* regulations.
- c. Animal slaughter regulations will align with the Texas Department of State Health Services Health and Safety Code, Title 6, Subtitle A, Chapter 433, Texas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act.
- e. Prohibited food handling practices for permitted Bed and Breakfast facilities will be redefined to align with TFER.

When will this ordinance go into effect?

This ordinance will go into effect on June 1, 2025.

For more information regarding the Chapter 16 Health and Sanitation ordinance updates, contact:

Environmental Services Department
Consumer Health Division
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For the *Fort Worth, TX. Code of Ordinances* referenced, visit: <https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/environmental-services/health/documents/fw-food-ordinance-chpt-16.pdf>