



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Health

Guidelines for Food Handlers

DEFINITIONS

Food Handlers are categorised as:

- Itinerant Vendor: a person who prepares/assists in preparation of foods at one (1) place and offers it for sale in other places; or
- Food Establishment employer/employee; a person who is employed at a fixed food establishment and involved in the preparation or sale of food.

Food is defined in the Public Health Ordinance Chapter 12 No.4 Section 86 (1) (a) and Section 86 (1) (b):

- 86 (1) (a); Any article, whether solid or liquid, intended for the food of man and sold or exposed for sale or deposited in any place, or in course of transmission for the purpose of sale or of preparation for sale: or
- 86 (1) (b); Any live animal or dead animal or part thereof intended for the food of man which is sold or exposed for sale or deposited in any place, or in course of transmission for the purpose of sale or of preparation for sale.



Courtesy: Public Health Inspectorate



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LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

1. All food handlers must be registered with the Public Health Department/Inspectorate on or before March 31 each year (Public Health Ordinance Chapter 12 No.4 Section 156 (h)).
2. Registration is evidenced by obtaining a food badge for the current year. This badge expires on December 31, each year. The badge can be cancelled for any breach of the food regulations (Public Health Ordinance Chapter 12 No.4 Section 156 and/or Sale of Food Stuff Bye-Laws).
3. The related badge must be displayed at all times while the handler is operating the food business.





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REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF FOOD HANDLERS

An application for registration as a food handler must be made to the Public Health Department/Inspectorate for the area in which the food handler operates or proposes to operate. The application must be made in accordance with the following:

1. A certificate from a Medical Practitioner indicating fitness of the holder to operate as a food handler. Note that this certificate must be on the standard certificate form issued by the Public Health Inspectorate;
2. One (1) recent passport size photograph in the case of a renewal of registration, or two (2) passport size photographs for a first time applicant;
3. Payment of fees as prescribed by the Public Health Department/Local Health Authority;
4. Must attend food safety lectures provided by the Public Health Inspectorate;
5. Itinerant vendors must produce for inspection the required attire required for vending, i.e. white coats, head cover, caps or head ties). This attire must be worn at all times when conducting business; and
6. The preparation area, utensils, equipment and facilities of the itinerant vendor must be inspected and registered before the vendor is registered.