



Pat Quinn, Governor
LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director

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September 9, 2013

Dear Illinois FSSMC Instructors and Sponsors:

On August 27, 2013, the Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act (410 ILCS 625), amended per SB1495, was signed into law. This brings several changes to the Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) program. After a meeting with the FSSMC workgroup, it was decided that the Illinois FSSMC exam for initial certification will be eliminated on January 1, 2014.

Since you will no longer receive exams from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) after January 1, 2014, you will be required to administer an American National Standards Institute-Conference for Food Protection (ANSI-CFP) approved exam, and the exam will have to be provided by one of the ANSI-CFP approved exam providers. Students are still required to pass the exam with a 75%. You will need to contact the exam provider of your choice for information about proctoring their exam. The four approved exam providers are: ServSafe (National Restaurant Association), National Registry of Food Safety Professionals (NRFSP), Prometric and 360training.com. Contact information for these providers can be found on the web portal and on the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions list.

Effective January 1, 2014, the IDPH Regional Offices will no longer provide the Illinois FSSMC exam. Retake exams will be offered in Springfield by IDPH until June 30, 2014 or instructors can offer retake exams with the IL FSSMC exam until June 30, 2014.

Please note that until July 1, 2014, you are still required to teach a 15-hour course.

The passing of SB1495 brings the following changes*:

1. The State of Illinois will no longer provide the Illinois FSSMC exam
2. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the training hour requirement for FSSMC courses is reduced from 15 hours down to 8 hours, inclusive of the exam
3. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the student must take an 8 hour course and exam every 5 years for recertification
4. Beginning July 1, 2014, a food handler certification will be required for all food handlers working in a restaurant, other than someone holding a food service sanitation manager certificate, and they must receive or obtain training in basic safe food handling principles as outlined in the bill within 30 days after employment. A restaurant is defined in the Act as "any business that is primarily engaged in the sale of ready-to-eat food for immediate

consumption. "Primarily engaged" means having sales of ready-to-eat food for immediate consumption comprising at least 51% of the total sales, excluding the sale of liquor". Restaurant and non-restaurant employees have different training methods and different effective dates listed in the Act.

*More information will be made available at a later date regarding these changes. The Department is currently working on rules to identify procedures for these changes.

Our Department is currently working on procedures to expedite the certificate process. With the new proposed procedures, we can simplify the application and payment process and the turn-around time from exam to certificate could be reduced from 6-12+ weeks to 3-6 weeks. Once these procedures are finalized, we will post the information on the web portal.

We are anticipating many questions due to these changes to the FSSMC Program and encourage you to check the web portal discussion board prior to contacting our office via phone or email to find general questions and answers. You can find the Discussion Board under "FSSMC Instructors", then "Discussion Board". You can view other instructors' questions and our answers or submit a new question to be answered. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is enclosed with this letter. If you would like to ask a question privately, please feel free to email April Caulk, FSSMC Program Coordinator, at april.caulk@illinois.gov If you need assistance with the web portal, please contact the helpdesk at 1-800-366-8768. We appreciate your patience and understand it will be a transition for all involved.

Sincerely,



Molly Jo Lamb
Chief, Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies
Illinois Department of Public Health