

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**§229.172 Accreditation of Certified Food Management Programs**  
**§229.176 Certification of Food Managers**  
**Effective January, 2010**  
[www.dshs.state.tx.us/foodestablishments/CFM.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/foodestablishments/CFM.shtm)

**1. When will the rule changes take effect?**

The effective date of adopted rules is January, 2010.

**2. Since I won't be using the State exam, do I have to be licensed with the state as an accredited training program?**

Yes, if you choose to provide an *accredited* training program according to Health and Safety Code Chapter 438 Subchapter D. Food Service Programs and §229.172 Accreditation of Certified Food Management Programs. The statute and rule establish the requirements for the traditional classroom (14 hours) training to managers who are new to the food industry and have need of quality training. At the completion of the training, a Department of State Health Services (DSHS) licensed American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Conference for Food Protection (CFP) ANSI-CFP examination would be given to a candidate.

**3. Since I won't be using the State exam, do I have to be licensed with the state as a Test Site?**

As an entity offering examinations under a DSHS licensed ANSI-CFP licensed examination provider, you are not required to license with the State. You should contact a licensed examination provider for information to offer their DSHS licensed examination. Currently those providers are: National Registry of Food Safety Professionals; National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation ServSafe and Prometric. Their contact information is:

- National Registry of Food Safety Professionals provides the *Food Manager Certification Examination*. Contact: [www.nrfsp.com](http://www.nrfsp.com) or toll-free at 800-446-0257.
- National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) offers the *ServSafe®* examination. Contact NRAEF: [www.nraef.org](http://www.nraef.org) or toll-free at 800-765-2122.
- Prometric, formerly Thomson Prometric and Experior Assessments, offers the *Food Manager Examination*. Contact: [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com) or toll-free at 800-624-2736.

**4. I just renewed my Certification Program/Recertification Program/Test Site, will I get a refund?**

Licensed programs and test sites will continue to be listed in the CFM Registry as providers of a state approved examination for the duration of the existing license period. Therefore, refunds will not be issued.

**5. When will the examination booklets I have purchased expire? Will I receive a refund for unused booklets?**

The department has provided advanced notification to ensure each program has ample time to implement a business plan and to utilize all purchased examinations. The examination booklets will not expire before the effective date of the rule.

**6. If I still have a credit balance for examination booklets will I get a refund?**

Because the Department has provided advanced notification to ensure each program has ample time to implement a business plan and to utilize all existing credits/remittances, refunds will not be issued.

**7. What happens to the students that have taken the course in the past or even recently? Will they be able to obtain a DSHS certificate or do they have to get one from the nationals?**

- Examinations administered prior to effective date will be graded and cards issued for passing candidates.
- Renewals for cards with 2-year expiration will continue to be processed until remaining renewals are exhausted.
- Replacement cards will continue to be issued upon receipt of application and \$15 fee until certification has expired.

**8. Will the State certificates still be valid (accepted by local health departments)?**

All certificates issued by the State are valid until expired.

**9. Who can I contact to obtain examination booklet and cost information?**

Currently there are three licensed examination providers: National Registry of Food Safety Professionals; National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation ServSafe and Prometric. Their contact information is:

- National Registry of Food Safety Professionals provides the *Food Manager Certification Examination*. Contact: [www.nrfssp.com](http://www.nrfssp.com) or toll-free at 800-446-0257.
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**10. Are the other licensed examinations equivalent to the State examination?**

All examinations are similar in the number and content of questions.

**11. Will the State still list licensed programs and test sites on the CFM Program registry?**

Yes, all licensed programs will continue to be listed in the registry posted on the CFM Program webpage.

**12. Can my business be listed on the CFM registry if I am administering examinations under an accredited national program?**

Only state licensed programs and test sites will be listed.

**13. Does my instructor certification with the state qualify me to teach under a national program?**

National *training* programs establish their own certification process for their training programs.

**14. Will National and Internet examination providers still have to be licensed with the State?**

Yes. All examination providers must be licensed with the State as required in rule 229.172 Accreditation of Food Management Programs and 229.176 Certification of Food Managers.