

June 30, 2009

To Independent Trainers

Dear Colleagues,

RE: Changes to the Provincial Food Safety Education Program

This letter is to introduce you to changes we have made related to approved food safety education, as required under section 31 of the *Food Regulation under the Public Health Act*.

In order to improve upon the current system for acquiring food safety education in Alberta we have created an application process that food safety education course providers may use to apply to have their food safety training courses, and thus certificates, approved as equivalent to the Provincial Food Sanitation and Hygiene Certificate. In creating this application process we remove any unfair competitive advantages against organizations seeking accreditation for their new food safety educational programs. In addition, as part of the application, course providers can submit courses that are designed for distance education and home study programs, which may be useful for individuals with different learning needs or living in remote locations.

As a result of the course approval process that is now in place, there is no longer a need to approve new Independent Trainers. In addition, Independent Trainers currently providing food safety education in Alberta will be given until January 1, 2010 to either:

- Apply to have their courses approved, an application package has been included for your convenience; or,
- Become recognized as a trainer for an organization whose certificates are currently considered equivalent in Alberta. A list of these organizations has been included for your reference.

Please note, if you are currently using the training materials from an organization whose certificates are already considered equivalent, for example NFSTP, but then using Alberta's Provincial Exam for the certification process, this will no longer be permitted. Instead, if you wish to continue using the course materials from one of these approved courses, you must also use their examination and certification process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Victor Mah at (780) 644-7563 or via e-mail at victor.mah@gov.ab.ca We wish you continued success with your food safety training initiatives.

Sincerely,



Marie Beliveau
Environmental Health Consultant
Surveillance & Environmental Health
Public Health Division

Independent Courses Approved in Alberta as Equivalent

Certificates obtained from one of these organizations are considered equivalent to our provincial certificate.

1. Advanced.FST - offered through TrainCan <http://www.traincan.com/index-advanced.html>
2. Foodwise - offered through the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors (this course is designed more for food production managers/employees, vs. food service managers/employees) <http://www.ccgd.ca/>
3. ServSafe - offered through the United States National Restaurant Association <http://www.nraef.org/servsafe/>
4. NFSTP - offered through the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association <http://www.crfa.ca/resourcecentre/foodsafety/nationalfoodsafetytrainingprogram.asp>
5. COSTCO Canada Food Safety Management Principles -- offered by Costco Wholesale to all Costco managers (to employees only)
6. Starbucks Food Safety -- offered by Starbucks Canada Inc. (to employees only)
7. Western Camp Services Food Safety Training Program -- offered by Western Camp Services (to employees only)