



HEALTH CARE AGENCY/PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

TO: Orange County Retail Food Facility Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Enhanced Notification Seals as of October 1, 2009

The Inspection Notification Seal is an important component of a Public Notification System that Orange County Environmental Health employs to provide information to the public about food safety at retail food facilities such as restaurants and supermarkets. The other three components of the system are: an educational and user-friendly inspection report; the Award of Excellence certificate that recognizes restaurants, caterers, markets and bakeries that have no high risk violations documented for an entire year; and, a website that provides a monthly list of retail food facility closures.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved an enhancement to the current public notification seals that are required to be posted near the front entrance of retail food establishments. The enhanced placard will indicate the compliance status of that establishment following the most recent inspection or reinspection. This enhancement became effective October 1, 2009. The enhanced placards will be issued following inspections conducted by the Food Protection Program.

Placards:



PASS: The food facility is deemed to be in substantial compliance with California food safety and sanitation standards at the time of inspection. No reinspection is required.

REINSPECTION DUE - PASS: This food facility was inspected and violations that may cause foodborne illness were observed and corrected. A reinspection has been scheduled to ensure continued compliance. Once continued compliance is verified, the REINSPECTION DUE-PASS seal is replaced with the PASS seal.

CLOSED: Violation(s) observed posed an imminent danger to public health or safety, which could not be immediately corrected. The health permit was suspended and the food facility was ordered to temporarily close. Once all violations causing the imminent health hazard are corrected, a reinspection will be scheduled to ensure that the health hazard has been removed. Following the reinspection, the CLOSED seal will be replaced with either the PASS or REINSPECTION DUE-PASS seal depending on which seal is appropriate at the time.

If you have any questions about the Inspection Notification Seal system, please contact your Environmental Health Specialist at (714) 433-6000 or visit our web site at www.ocfoodinfo.com.