

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 204

FOOD SAFETY - STARTING A FOOD BUSINESS?

Department of Health & Families Environment Health Officers oversee the establishment and operations of food Businesses within the terms of the NT Food Act.

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sheet

When starting a new or making substantial alterations to a food Business, all building plans are required to be lodged through an approved Building Certifier. They are then submitted to the Environmental Health Unit for assessment.

The following are requirements that are checked by Environmental Health Officers:

- all Food Businesses to be constructed and operated in accordance with the National Food Safety Standards
- there is to be a separate wash hand basin within all food preparation areas. All sinks, basins etc. are to be supplied with hot and cold water and in the case of a wash hand basin, this is to be dispensed through a mixer tap. It is to be supplied with soap and paper towels (A double bowl sink is not considered to be a separate wash hand basin and sink)
- it is also a requirement to provide appropriate sanitary facilities for food premises employees. These staff facilities need to be separate from sanitary facilities available for use by the general public. The numbers of sanitary facilities for employees and public use are to be in accordance with Table F2.3 of the Building Code of Australia
- lighting throughout the premises is required to be of minimum 300 Lux in accordance with Australian Standard 1680 – 1976
- cooking appliances over 8 KW/hr for electrical and 29 MJ/hr for gas appliances (in total) should be placed under an approved mechanical ventilation system.

When reviewing plans of a new food business, Environmental Health Officers, assess these against the criteria contained in Australian Standard 4674 – 2004 “Design, Construction and Fit-out of Food Premises”.

This standard can be found online at:

www.standards.com.au

This document provides specific information to achieve the requirements outlined in the Food Safety Standards. However, other ways to achieve compliance will be considered by Environmental Health Officers, if accompanied by relevant evidence of compliance.

For more information contact your local Environmental Health Office.

Contact details can be found at

http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental_Health/Contact_us/index.aspx