



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a Food Handler Card (CFH Card)?

A: A Food Handler Card (CFH Card) is a certificate that is required by all food employees who are involved in the preparation, storage, or service of food in a food facility.

The CFH Card is obtained after attending a food safety training course and passing an examination from an accredited organization.

Q: What is a Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM)?

A: A Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) is a certificate that is obtained by the owner or employee of food facilities that prepare, handle, or serve non-prepackaged potentially hazardous food.

There shall be at least one CFPM person at each food facility. The department recommends more than one person.

The CFPM is obtained after attending a food safety training course and passing an examination from an accredited organization.

Q: What is the difference between the CFH Card and the CFPM?

A: Both certificates are required under current laws and focus on food handling, employee's hygiene and the prevention of foodborne illnesses. The differences are as follow:

	CFH Card	CFPM
Training required	At least 3 hours (including training and exam)	at least 8 hours (including training and exam)
Number of questions during the examination	40 questions	80 questions
The certificate is valid for	3 years	5 years
Can I use the certificate in multiple food facilities	Can be use in multiple facilities	Can only be used in one facility at a time

Q: When are the CFH Card and/or a CFPM required?

A: There are different food facilities that required these certificates.

The CFH Card and the CFPM are required when the food facility handles non-prepackaged potentially hazardous food.



The CFH Card is required when the food facility handles non-prepackaged – non potentially hazardous food.

Note: Refer to the CCDEH guidelines for facilities that are exempted from the CFH Card at www.ccdeh.com

Q: How many CFH Cards or CFPM certificates are required per food facility?

A: There must be at least one employee per facility who is CFPM Certified. The Department recommends more to provide a better coverage in the facility.

On the other hand, all employees who are involved in the preparation, storage, or service of food in a food facility are required to obtain the CFH Card.

Q: How can I obtain a CFH Card or a CFPM Certificate?

A: In order to obtain the CFH card or the CFPM certificate, the owner/employees must complete a training course and successfully pass the exam issued by the accredited testing organization.

Q: How can I find an approved provider?

A: Los Angeles County (LAC) Environmental Health (EH) maintains a list of approved CFPM training providers whose courses have met the standards set forth by LAC EH. Contact the Certified Food Protection Manager Program at (626)430-5320 or visit our website at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.eh to obtain a current list.

The CFH Card can be obtained by contacting one of the approved testing companies directly.

Q: Are the certificate training courses and examination offered in different languages?

A: Yes, the training courses can be offered in different languages, however the employee must contact the provider to check for the availability of a specific language.

Q: What if I am already CFPM certified?

A: If you are CFPM Certified, you will not need to obtain another CFPM or CFH Card until your current certification expires.

Q: What would happen if my food facility does not have the certificates (CFH Card or CFPM) when required by the inspector?

A: If the required certificates are not available on site at the time of inspections, your food facility may be cited for a violations with the State Law.



Q: How long do I have to obtain a CFH card or the CFPM certificate if I just opened my business?

A: A food facility that begins operation, changes ownership, or no longer has a certified owner or employee, must obtain a CFPM certificate within 60 days.

Employees (food operators) that do not have a CFPM certificate must obtain a CFH card within 30 days from the hiring day.

Q: Can employees use their CFH Card or CFPM Certificate in more than one food facility?

A: CFPM certificate cannot be used in more than one food facility. A Certified food person may only serve at one food facility as a CFPM

On the other hand, the CFH Card can be use in multiple food facilities without limitations except in San Bernardino, San Diego, and Riversides Counties.