

ATTENTION PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS!!!!

IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING FOOD ESTABLISHMENT INSPECTION FREQUENCY AND PERMIT FEES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2018

Austin Public Health would like to inform all of our stakeholders and partners of changes being made by the Environmental Health Services Division. These changes will impact food safety inspection frequency and therefore also impact the cost of providing this service through annual permitting fees.

Consistent with many cities and counties in Texas and the United States, Austin has adopted the Food and Drug Administration's risk based inspection scheduling system known as the Inspection Frequency Standard (IFS). IFS is a regulatory best practice and a requirement to meet the FDA's Retail Food Safety Voluntary Standards. Under IFS, all establishments are reviewed and assessed a risk category based on the complexity of food processes, control measures used to reduce the risk of food borne illness, and inspection history.

Under IFS, high risk establishments are inspected three (3) times per year; medium risk establishments are inspected two (2) times per year; and low risk establishments are inspected once (1) per year.

In addition, Austin's IFS program will include an incentive approach which reduces the number of inspections for consistently high scoring establishments (24 month average of 90 or greater), while increasing the number of inspections for consistently low scoring establishments (24 month average of below 80).

We strongly believe that this best practice approach to food safety inspections will result in better protection of public health and a reduction in overall food borne illnesses.

In conjunction with the changes regarding IFS, there will be fee changes to correspond to the new inspection frequency (see Fees Table below). Fees will be based on both the risk level and the size of the food establishment.

These changes to the risk based inspection frequency standard and the associated fee schedule changes will take effect on November 1, 2018.

The City of Austin appreciates this opportunity to work with you to better protect consumer health. Should you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Health Services Division at (512) 978-0300.

Food Establishment Annual Permit Fees

Current FY 2018 City of Austin Fee Schedule: (Based on two inspections per year)

# of Employees	Annual Permit Fee
1-9	\$475
10-25	\$540
26-50	\$605
51-100	\$670
Over 100	\$734

FY 2019 City of Austin Fee Schedule: Effective Date – November 1, 2018

<u>Risk Categories:</u>	<u>Size Sub-Categories:</u>
3 (high risk)	A (>50 employees)
2 (medium risk)	B (26-50 employees)
1 (low risk)	C (1-25 employees)

Risk Category	Risk Level	Size Sub-Category	Annual Permit Fee	Inspections Per Year
3	High Risk	Large Size 3A	\$896	3
3	High Risk	Medium Size 3B	\$782	3
3	High Risk	Small Size 3C	\$601	3
2	Medium Risk	Large Size 2A	\$684	2
2	Medium Risk	Medium Size 2B	\$608	2
2	Medium Risk	Small Size 2C	\$532	2
1	Low Risk	Large Size 1A	\$416	1
1	Low Risk	Medium Size 1B	\$378	1
1	Low Risk	Small Size 1C	\$359	1

To see the full Fee Schedule taking effect, November 1, 2018, click [here](#).