

**ORDINANCE NO. 10101 (N.S.)**  
**12/08/2010 (23)**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 61.107, 61.108 AND 61.109 OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CODE OF REGULATORY ORDINANCES RELATING TO THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF A FOOD FACILITY PERMIT

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego ordains as follows:

Section 1. Section 61.107 of the County Code is amended to read as follows:

**SEC. 61.107. GRADING SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN FOOD FACILITIES.**

(a) The Director may adopt regulations to grade permanent food facilities that prepare ready-to-eat food, using a letter grade system. The grading system may be used during any inspection DEH conducts. An “A” grade shall represent a score of 90 percent or higher. A “B” grade shall represent a score of 80 to 89 percent. A “C” grade shall represent a score less than 80 percent. DEH shall issue an alphabetical grade card to each food facility graded during an inspection pursuant to this section and shall provide the permit holder with a list of deficiencies found during the grading inspection. If DEH determines from the inspection, however, that the facility presents an imminent health hazard that warrants immediate closure DEH shall not issue the facility a grade card

(b) DEH may order a food facility permit holder receiving a grade of “B” or “C” to submit to subsequent re-grade inspections within 30 days, until the facility receives an “A” grade. DEH may also order a permit holder to correct a deficiency found during an inspection in less than 30 days. The permit holder shall pay DEH a re-grade fee at the time of each re-grade inspection.

(c) DEH may use information obtained during an inspection pursuant to this section to temporarily suspend a food facility permit and order a food facility to immediately close due to an imminent health hazard that cannot be immediately corrected. DEH may also use the information obtained during an inspection to modify, suspend or revoke the food facility’s permit.

(d) If DEH determines that a food facility should be ordered to show cause at a hearing why its permit should not be suspended or revoked, DEH may require the facility to post a specified alternative notice instead of a grade card, until that hearing process is concluded and a decision concerning the permit is rendered.

(e) If DEH determines that the public should be informed of temporary conditions affecting a food facility, such as a boil water order or a closure order for only a portion of the facility, DEH may require the facility to post a specified notice, and may

direct that such posting be maintained either instead of or in addition to posting a grade card.

Section 2. Section 61.108 of the County Code is amended to read as follows:

**SEC. 61.108. ALPHABETICAL GRADE CARD TO BE POSTED.**

(a) The permit holder of a permanent food facility that prepares ready-to-eat food shall post the alphabetical grade card DEH issues, or any alternative notice specified by DEH pursuant to Section 61.107, whenever the facility is open for business. The grade card or alternative notice shall be posted so that it is clearly visible to patrons of the facility.

(b) If the food facility is enclosed, the permit holder shall post the grade card or alternative notice: (1) in the front window of the facility, (2) in an accessible display case mounted on the outside of the front door, (3) in an accessible display case mounted on the outside front wall of the facility within five feet of the front door or (4) in some other location DEH approves. If the food facility has a drive-through feature, the permit holder shall also post the grade card or alternative notice at the drive-in pickup window of the facility.

(c) If the food facility is not enclosed, the permit holder shall display the grade card or alternative notice in a location clearly visible to any patron of the facility. DEH may require the permit holder of an unenclosed facility to display the grade card or alternative notice in a specific location.

(d) The permit holder shall protect the alphabetical grade card or alternative notice from damage by weather conditions and shall not allow the card or alternative notice to be defaced, marred, camouflaged or hidden so as to prevent the general public from observing it. The permit holder shall request a new card or alternative notice from DEH within one business day of the grade card or alternative notice being damaged, marred, altered or lost.

Section 3. Section 61.109 of the County Code is amended to read as follows:

**SEC. 61.109. HEARING REQUESTED BY PERMIT HOLDER OR DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH; APPEALS.**

(a) If a permit holder requests a hearing within 15 days after receiving notice that DEH proposes to suspend or revoke a food facility permit pursuant to the CRFC, or if DEH temporarily closes a food facility for an imminent health hazard, the Director shall schedule a hearing. The Director shall also schedule a hearing when DEH proposes to modify, suspend or revoke a permit for serious or repeated violations of the CRFC. A hearing pursuant to this section shall be with a DEH employee, at the supervisor level or

higher, who was not involved in the decision to propose to modify, suspend or revoke the permit or to temporarily close the facility.

(b) The permit holder may appeal the decision made at the hearing to the Appellate Hearing Board as provided in Chapter 1 of Division 6 of Title 1 of this Code. Filing an appeal shall stay the decision of the DEH hearing officer, unless the DEH hearing officer determined that an imminent health hazard required closure of the facility.

(c) The Clerk shall endeavor to schedule the appeal hearing on an expedited basis if the food facility must remain closed until that appeal is heard.

Section 4: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty days after its passage and before the expiration of fifteen days after its passage, a summary hereof shall be published once with the names of the members of this Board voting for and against it in the San Diego Commerce a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of San Diego.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2010.