

FOOD SERVICE OPERATION AND RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT RISK LEVEL CLASSIFICATIONS

- (A) Risk level I poses potential risk to the public in terms of sanitation, food labeling, sources of food, storage practices, or expiration dates. Examples of risk level I activities include, but are not limited to, an operation that offers for sale or sells:
- (1) Coffee, self-service fountain drinks, prepackaged non-potentially hazardous beverages;
 - (2) Pre-packaged refrigerated or frozen potentially hazardous foods;
 - (3) Pre-packaged non-potentially hazardous foods; or
 - (4) Baby food or formula.
- A "food delivery sales operation" as defined in division (H) of section 3717.01 of the Revised Code shall be classified at risk level I.
- (B) Risk level II poses a higher potential risk to the public than risk level I because of hand contact or employee health concerns but minimal possibility of pathogenic growth exists. Examples of risk level II activities include, but are not limited to:
- (1) Handling, heat treating, or preparing non-potentially hazardous food;
 - (2) Holding for sale or serving potentially hazardous food at the same proper holding temperature at which it was received; or
 - (3) Heating individually packaged, commercially processed potentially hazardous foods for immediate service.
- (C) Risk level III poses a higher potential risk to the public than risk level II because of the following concerns: proper cooking temperature, proper cooling procedures, proper holding temperatures, contamination issues or improper heat treatment in association with longer holding times before consumption, or processing a raw food product requiring bacterial load reduction procedures in order to sell as ready-to-eat. Examples of risk level III activities include, but are not limited to:
- (1) Handling, cutting, or grinding raw meat products;
 - (2) Cutting or slicing ready-to-eat meats and cheeses;
 - (3) Assembling or cooking potentially hazardous food that is immediately served, held hot or cold, or cooled;
 - (4) Operating a heat treatment dispensing freezer;
 - (5) Reheating in individual portions only; or
 - (6) Heating of a product, from an intact, hermetically sealed package and holding it hot.
- (D) Risk level IV poses a higher potential risk to the public than risk level III because of concerns associated with: handling or preparing food using a procedure with several preparation steps that includes reheating of a product or ingredient of a product where multiple temperature controls are needed to preclude bacterial growth; offering as ready-to-eat a raw potentially hazardous meat, poultry product, fish, or shellfish or a food with these raw potentially hazardous items as ingredients; using freezing as a means to achieve parasite destruction; serving a primarily high risk clientele including immuno-compromised or elderly individuals in a facility that provides either health care or assisted living; or using time in lieu of temperature as a public health control for potentially hazardous food or performs a food handling process that is not addressed, deviates, or otherwise requires a variance for the process. Examples of risk level IV activities include, but are not limited to:
- (1) Reheating bulk quantities of leftover potentially hazardous food more than once every seven days; or
 - (2) Caters or other similar food service operation that transport potentially hazardous food.