

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. If I choose NOT to recertify by examination, will I get the same license as people who do?

A. No. A CFM license will be issued to those who show competency by completing an exam. A **Food Safety Training for Small Operators** license will be issued to those who simply take an approved recertification course.

Q. Can I use my Food Safety Training for Small Operators license in a restaurant with more than 5 food handlers in the future?

A. No. If you decide to obtain the Food Safety Training for Small Operators license, you are restricted to restaurants with 5 or fewer food handlers. If you want to hold a certificate for a restaurant with more than 5 food handlers, you will need to take an accredited examination and receive the CFM license.

Q. If I have not been certified in the past, can I still receive the Food Safety Training for Small Operators license?

A. No. All individuals applying to the department for the first time must pass an accredited examination and receive a CFM license. The Food Safety Training for Small Operators license can only be obtained by renewal.

Q. Who is considered a “food handler?”

A. Basically, anyone who handles or assembles food for the patrons. Chefs, line cooks and possibly servers are examples. A server who assembles salads, scoops ice cream or cuts desserts would be considered a food handler. A bartender slicing limes and lemons is not a food handler.

Q. My certificate expired March 6, 2015, and I have not yet taken my course and examination. I work at a small restaurant with three (3) food handlers. Do I still need to take an exam? Or can I take a recertification course instead?

A. This bill is retroactive to January 1, 2015. This means that if you have not yet retaken an examination and obtained a CFM license, you may be eligible to take a course to obtain a Food Safety Training for Small Operators license. There is a grace period, which allows you to obtain a Food Safety Training for Small Operators license six months after your original certificate has expired. If you let it lapse longer than six months, you will need to certify by examination regardless of the number of food handlers at your facility.

Q. Where can I find the department-approved courses and exams?

A. You may contact the department using the information on this letter, or follow this link: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/fsrl/certificates.htm>

Q. If I go to work for a new establishment, will I need to get another certification?

A. No. Your CFM or Food Safety Training for Small Operators license is unique to you, not your restaurant.

Q. When I apply for a license, what do I need to submit to the department?

A. You will need to submit a **completed** application along with the correct fees and evidence of passing an exam or taking an approved course.