



COUNTY OF SONOMA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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sonoma-county.org/environmental

Color-Coded Placard Program

Background:

Environmental Health is implementing a new food facility grading system to improve food safety in retail food facilities and help customers make dining choices with one look. The color-coded placard program requires food establishments to post a color-coded placard indicating the compliance status of that establishment on the most recent inspection or reinspection.

The color-coded placard increases community awareness through a regionalized, simple and easily readable format. Placards are posted at facilities and full inspection results will be available on the Sonoma County website at www.sonoma-county.org/placards.

Placards:

The same criteria are used for all types of food establishments.



PASS. The green pass placard is issued when no more than one major violation is observed. The major violation must be corrected or mitigated at inspection. Minor violations must be corrected within the time frame indicated on the inspection report. A reinspection may be conducted if any of the violations are not permanently corrected in a timely manner.



CONDITIONAL. The yellow conditional pass placard is issued when two or more major violations are observed. These violations must be corrected or mitigated at inspection. A reinspection will be conducted within 24-72 hours to ensure all major violations remain corrected. Minor violations are required to be corrected within the time frame indicated on the inspection report. If all major violations remain corrected during the reinspection, a green pass placard will be issued at the reinspection.



CLOSED. The red closed placard is issued when an imminent threat to health and safety is observed. Examples of imminent health hazards include: surfacing sewage, no hot water, rodent/insect infestation or severe unsanitary conditions. The red closed placard must remain posted and the facility closed until a reinspection is conducted to confirm that the imminent health hazard no longer exists. A new placard will be issued at the reinspection.

Posting:

A green, yellow or red placard is issued at the end of each routine inspection and reinspection. The placard must be posted in an acceptable location from the time it is issued until the time it is replaced with another placard. The placard will be posted in a location approved by the Environmental Health Specialist:

- The placard must be posted in a front window or door at the main entrance, facing outward within 5 feet of the main entrance.
- The placard may also be posted in a display case (such as a menu display box) mounted on the outside wall within 5 feet of the main entrance to the facility.

If no windows or display box exists, or if the windows are heavily tinted:

- The placard may be posted inside the facility, in a visible location, within five feet of the main entrance, or
- The placard may be prominently posted at the service counter, if ordering is done at a service counter/register.

Resources:

The ***California Retail Food Code (CalCode)*** provides for the regulation of health and sanitation standards for retail food facilities and is the primary reference used in food facility inspections.

The ***Sonoma County Retail Food Inspection Field Guide*** provides a reference list of CalCode codes and examples of major and minor violations in each section. The ***Sonoma County Retail Food Inspection Field Guide*** is available at www.sonoma-county.org/placards.

For More Information:

For additional information please contact Environmental Health at 707-565-6565 or go to our website at www.sonoma-county.org/placards.

