



## GREEN, YELLOW AND RED PLACARD PROGRAM

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to outline the Color-Coded Placard Program that is used in Sacramento County and the resources available to assist food facility owners and operators.

### BACKGROUND

The Color-Coded Placard Program was implemented by the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department January 1, 2007. This program is outlined in the Sacramento County Code under Title 6.04.021 and states that all retail food establishments are required to post a color coded placard indicating the compliance status of that establishment on the most recent inspection or reinspection.

The goals of the placard program are:

- Reduce foodborne illness
- Increase compliance with food safety laws
- Convey inspection results to the public using a system that is simple to understand

### SCOPE

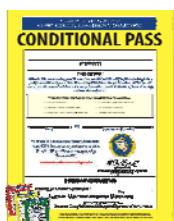
All of the following retail food establishments in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Sacramento County are required to post a placard once it has been issued: restaurants, bars, coffee houses, bakeries, sandwich shops, schools, and markets.

### PLACARDS

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



**PASS.** A 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 PASS.** A 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.** A 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 will be 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 Environmental Specialist will approve the location where the placard will be posted. (*Sacramento County Code, Title 6.04.021 Posting of Placards*).

- The placard must be posted in a front window or door at the main entrance, facing outward. If it is posted in a front window, it must be 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.*

**TRAINING CLASSES**

EMD is offering "How to Get a Green Placard" training classes at no cost to participants. The specific criteria for the placard program, as well as basic food safety training will be reviewed in each class. The goal of these classes is to provide each student with a complete understanding of how to receive and maintain a Green "PASS" placard. Each training class is 90 minutes. Please call Kristin Ledbetter or Jennifer Hermreck at (916) 875-8440 for a schedule of classes.

**RESOURCES**

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

The ***Sacramento County Retail Food Inspection Field Guide*** provides a reference list of CURFFL codes and examples of major and minor violations in each section.

Both of these documents can be located at [www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For additional information, contact the Environmental Management Department (EMD) at (916) 875-8440, or go to the EMD web site at [www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net).

