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SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT
SPS-EH-2012-005

A substantive policy statement (SPS) is advisory only. In accordance with A.R.S. §11-1601, SPS's do not include internal procedural documents that only affect internal procedures of the Maricopa Environmental Services Department and do not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or confidential information.

1. SPS Subject:

The purpose of this SPS is to clarify the permit requirements regarding splash guard protection in food service establishments.

2. Statutory Overview:

Maricopa County Environmental Health Code (MCEHC)

3. SPS:

The 2009 FDA Food Code established regulations to ensure the delivery of safe food and drink. These include regulations for safe food storage, as well as clean and sanitary food contact surfaces. The aforementioned regulations specifically address the protection of food, equipment, and utensils from sources of contamination.

There are numerous types of sinks that are used in a food service establishment and each of them can generate sources of contamination in the form of splash from soiled hands, dishware, or mop water. Food and clean food contact surfaces must be protected from these sources of contamination. This SPS provides clarity regarding the requirements necessary to prevent this type of cross contamination.

Splash guards are needed when a hand wash sink, mop sink, or soiled dishware drain board is installed within 24 inches of a food contact surface, food/utensil storage shelf, food preparation area, food preparation sink or a sanitized dishware drain board.

Install a waterproof splashguard at least as high as the faucet and as deep as the hand sink, between the sink and food/dish related areas. We recommend the use of stainless steel. Securely fasten splashguards to the wall, countertop, or sink. Seal the seam created by the splashguard with silicone.

4. SPS Effective Date:

July 1, 2012

5. SPS New Document/Revision Statement:

SPS-EH-2012-005 is a new SPS.

6. Contact Us:

For questions or comments regarding this SPS or to obtain a copy of this document, please contact the Department Records Custodian at the address and/or phone number above.