

ABSTRACT

DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF ENFORCEMENT BY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS OF THE FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATION LAW IN CALIFORNIA

In January 2000, California became one of 16 states to mandate a food safety certification law. This law requires that retail food facilities have at least one employee who is certified in food safety by passing an approved food safety test. One purpose of this study was to determine the level of enforcement by environmental health jurisdictions in California of this law concerning food safety certification. A second purpose was to compare enforcement methods between jurisdictions. The data were gathered from the directors of each jurisdiction via a mail survey using a self-reporting questionnaire. The directors' opinions were also elicited, using a 5-point Likert Scale, as to the effectiveness of the food safety certification law. The results show that a majority (59.7%) of jurisdictions have at least a minimum level of enforcement and that there are many differences in the method of enforcement.

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