

Food Premise

Construction and fit-out guidelines

The Food Safety Standards (Chapter 3 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code) contains requirements for the establishment of new food businesses and the upgrading of existing ones. Copies of the Standards are available through the website at www.foodstandards.gov.au.

In general, food businesses are required to ensure that premises are designed and constructed to minimise opportunities for food contamination.

For further advice regarding fit-out requirements, contact Council's Environmental Health Section on 8372 5155.

It is important to check with Council's Development Section prior to commencement of any proposed work, as Planning and/or Building approval may be required. Telephone 8372 5111.

General Requirements

(3.2.3 Clause 3)

The design and construction of food premises must:

- be appropriate for the premises prime activities;
- provide adequate space for activities to be conducted on premise;
- permit the premises to be effectively cleaned and sanitised;
- to the extent that is possible, exclude dirt, dust, fumes, pests and other contaminants; and
- not provide harbourage for pests.

Water Supply

(3.2.3 Clause 4)

- Adequate supply must be available for all activities requiring the use of water
- Water used must be acceptable for human consumption

Sewage and Wastewater Disposal

(3.2.3 Clause 5)

- All sewage and waste water must be disposed of to sewer, or where sewer is not available, an approved on-site wastewater disposal system.
- Contact SA Water (Trade Waste Section) for advice on requirements for grease arrestors and other pre-treatment devices.

Storage of Garbage and Recyclables

(3.2.3 Clause 6)

- Adequate facilities must be provided for the sanitary storage of all garbage and recyclable matter.
- Food wastes must be stored in suitably sized, easily cleaned containers which are enclosed to keep pests and animals away and minimise the production of odours.

Ventilation

(3.2.3 Clause 7)

- Sufficient natural or mechanical ventilation is required to effectively remove fumes, smoke steam and vapours .
- Generally, mechanical ventilation will be required to be installed above most cooking, frying and steaming appliances. Further guidance on specific requirements may be found in Australian Standard 1668.2 (Part 2 – Mechanical Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality).

Lighting

(3.2.3 Clause 8)

- Sufficient lighting must be provided to enable staff to carry out food handling operations, cleaning and sanitising and other activities
- Guidance on lighting and “good seeing conditions” can be found in Australian Standard 1680 Part 1 – 1990, and AS/NZ 1680.2.4 1997.
- All ceiling lighting in food preparation areas should be fitted with suitable plastic covers (diffusers) or be of shatterproof design.

Floors

(3.2.3 Clause 10)

- Finishes must be appropriate for the intended food activity
- Must be able to be effectively cleaned
- Must be unable to absorb grease, food particles or water
- Must not allow for the ponding of water
- Must not provide harbourage for pests

Floors cont.

Depending on the location, examples of suitable finishes may include ceramic tiles, seam welded vinyl, or smooth finished concrete render (suitably sealed or coated). Coving should be considered in wet food handling areas or areas requiring flushing with water to clean.

Floors, Walls and Ceilings

The following requirements relate to areas of food premises other than areas used for dining, drinking, or where customers would ordinarily have access.

Walls and Ceilings

(3.2.3 Clause 11)

Must be:

- appropriate for the intended food activity;
- provided where necessary to protect food against contamination;
- sealed to prevent entry of dirt, dust and pests
- unable to absorb grease, food particles or water; and
- able to be easily and effectively cleaned.

In relation to walls, consideration needs to be given to the amount of splashing, soiling and cleaning required in specific areas. High maintenance areas (ie above sinks, benches and behind cooking equipment) may require durable finishes such as tiles, stainless steel or concrete render (suitably sealed or coated).

Avoid the use of open brickwork wherever possible, unless it is flush-jointed and suitably finished to allow for effective cleaning.

In relation to ceilings, continuous construction (ie flushed plasterboard) is recommended for new premises where unpackaged food is handled, stored or displayed. Drop-in panels are acceptable for existing premises provided the panels fit flush and are able to be effectively cleaned.

Walls and ceilings requiring painting should be finished with a washable, durable paint of light colour.

Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment

(3.2.3 Clause 12)

- Generally, must be fit for intended use and adequate for the production of safe and suitable food
- Must be designed, constructed, located and installed so as to be not likely to cause food contamination, and be able to be easily and effectively cleaned.

Particular consideration should be given to finishes and materials for food contact surfaces. Suitable food grade materials may include stainless steel, laminate and certain plastics.

Washing of eating and drinking utensils and food contact equipment:

1. Double bowl sink (minimum) – one side for cleaning and the other for rinsing/sanitising, or
2. A dishwashing unit capable of sanitising in the rinse phase (may be commercial or domestic)

Washing/preparation of fruit and vegetables:

A separate, designated sink is required.

Hand washing facilities

(3.2.3 Clause 14)

Permanent fixtures must be provided wherever food may be contaminated by the hands (where unpackaged food is handled, stored or displayed). Fixtures must be:

- immediately adjacent to toilets;
- easily accessible;
- connected to a supply of warm running water;
- large enough to allow for effective washing;
- for the sole purpose of washing hands, arms and face; and be
- provided with a supply of soap (preferably liquid) and single use towels at all times.

As a guide to location, it is recommended that food handlers in typical food service businesses should not need to travel more than five (5) metres to access a hand wash facility.

Storage facilities

(3.2.3 Clause 15)

Chemicals, staff clothing and personal belongings must be stored in separate, designated areas where they are not likely to contaminate food

Toilet facilities

(3.2.3 Clause 16)

Adequate facilities must be made available for the use of food handlers.

Food Transport Vehicles

(3.2.3 Clause 17)

Must be constructed in a way that can be easily cleaned and provide adequate protection to the food (including refrigeration where necessary).