

## **STANDARD 3.3.1**

### **FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS FOR FOOD SERVICE TO VULNERABLE PERSONS**

**To commence on 5 October 2008**

**(Australia only)**

#### **Purpose and commentary**

This Standard requires food businesses that process food for service to vulnerable persons to implement a documented and audited food safety program.

Food businesses that process or serve potentially hazardous food for hospital patients, aged care recipients, children in child care centres and vulnerable people receiving other services will generally fall within the requirements of this Standard, provided the food is intended for six or more vulnerable persons. This Standard also applies to delivered meals organisations that process potentially hazardous meals intended for six or more vulnerable persons.

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#### **Clauses**

##### **1 Application**

(1) This Standard applies to food businesses that engage in one of the activities listed and described in the Table to this subclause.

**Table to subclause 1(1)**

Activity 1	Process or serve potentially hazardous food within a facility listed and defined in the Schedule to six or more vulnerable persons at any given time
Activity 2	The principal activity is processing food into ready to eat food for service in a facility listed and defined in the Schedule and the processed food – (a) is for service to six or more vulnerable persons at any given time; and (b) includes ready to eat potentially hazardous food.
Activity 3	The principal activity is processing food into ready to eat food for delivery by a delivered meal organisation and the processed food – (a) is for service to six or more vulnerable persons at any given time; and (b) includes ready to eat potentially hazardous food.

**Editorial note:**

‘Process’ in relation to food is defined in Standard 3.2.2 as an activity conducted to prepare food for sale including chopping, cooking, drying, fermenting, heating, pasteurising, thawing and washing, or a combination of these activities.

A number of the definitions of the facilities listed in the Schedule are adapted from the National Health Data Dictionary, version 12. This Dictionary contains core definitions endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council as the authoritative source of national standard definitions for use in clinical care delivery.

- (2) This Standard also applies to delivered meals organisations that –
- (a) are food businesses; and
  - (b) process food for service to six or more vulnerable persons at any given time, and the food served is ready to eat food which includes ready to eat potentially hazardous food.

**Editorial note:**

‘Potentially hazardous food’ is defined in Standard 3.2.2 as food that has to be kept at certain temperatures to minimise the growth of any pathogenic micro-organisms that may be present in the food or to prevent the formation of toxins in the food.

- (3) This Standard does not apply to –
- (a) food businesses that only serve milk or soy milk as, or in, a beverage; or
  - (b) delivered meals organisations that only deliver food.
- (4) Subclause 1(2) of Standard 1.1.1 does not apply to this Standard.

## **2 Interpretation**

(1) Unless the contrary intention appears, the definitions in Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of this Code apply in this Standard.

(2) In this Standard –

**milk** includes flavoured and modified milk.

**ready to eat** in relation to food means food that is ready for consumption, but includes food that may be re-heated, portioned or garnished or food that undergoes similar finishing prior to service.

**vulnerable person** means a person who is in care in a facility listed in the Schedule or a client of a delivered meals organisation.

## **3 Food safety programs**

(1) A food business to which this Standard applies must comply with Standard 3.2.1

(2) Clause 6 of Standard 3.2.1 applies to a food business to which this Standard applies.

### SCHEDULE

Column 1	Column 2
Facility	Definition
Acute care hospitals	<p>Establishments which provide at least minimal medical, surgical or obstetric services for inpatient treatment or care, and which provide round-the-clock comprehensive qualified nursing services as well as other necessary professional services. Most patients have acute conditions or temporary ailments and the average stay per admission is relatively short. Acute care hospitals include:</p> <p>(a) Hospitals specialising in dental, ophthalmic aids and other specialised medical or surgical care;</p> <p>(b) Public acute care hospitals;</p> <p>(c) Private acute care hospitals;</p> <p>(d) Veterans' Affairs hospitals.</p>
Psychiatric hospitals	<p>Establishments devoted primarily to the treatment and care of inpatients with psychiatric, mental or behavioural disorders including any:</p> <p>(a) Public psychiatric hospital;</p> <p>(b) Private psychiatric hospital.</p>
Nursing homes for the aged	<p>Establishments which provide long-term care involving regular basic nursing care to aged persons and including any:</p> <p>(a) Private charitable nursing home for the aged;</p> <p>(b) Private profit nursing home for the aged;</p> <p>(c) Government nursing home for the aged.</p>
Hospices	<p>Freestanding establishments providing palliative care to terminally ill patients, including any:</p> <p>(a) Public hospice;</p> <p>(b) Private hospice.</p>

## SCHEDULE (continued)

Column 1	Column 2
Facility	Definition
Same day establishments for chemotherapy and renal dialysis services	<p>Including both the traditional day centre/hospital that provides chemotherapy and/or renal dialysis services and also freestanding day surgery centres that provide chemotherapy and/or renal dialysis services including any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Public day centre/hospital</li> <li>(b) Public freestanding day surgery centre</li> <li>(c) Private day centre/hospital</li> <li>(d) Private freestanding day surgery centre that provides those services.</li> </ul> <p>Day centres/ hospitals are establishments providing a course of acute treatment on a full-day or part-day non- residential attendance basis at specified intervals over a period of time.</p> <p>Freestanding day surgery centres are hospital facilities providing investigation and treatment for acute conditions on a day-only basis.</p>
Respite care establishments for the Aged	Establishments which provide short-term care including personal care and regular basic nursing care to aged persons.
Same – day aged care establishments	Establishments where aged persons attend for day or part-day rehabilitative or therapeutic treatment.
Low care aged care establishments	Establishments where aged persons live independently but on-call assistance, including the provision of meals, is provided if needed.
Child care centres	<p>A facility which is not a private residential dwelling and is designated for the purpose of childcare and provides long day care, employer sponsored childcare, or occasional care, for children four years of age or less, but <b>does not</b> include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a service for providing preschool education conducted by a school;</li> <li>(b) a service principally conducted to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) therapeutic services;</li> <li>(ii) residential facilities;</li> <li>(iii) instruction in a particular activity e.g. dance, music or a sport;</li> <li>(iv) tutoring, coaching or religious instruction;</li> <li>(v) a recreational activity, for example, a camp or party.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(c) a service for which, ordinarily, the children in care are entirely or mostly different on each occasion child care is provided, for example, resort care for children of guests of the resort.</li> </ul>