

Conference for Food Protection – Committee Periodic Report

Template approved: 04/20/2016

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COMMITTEE NAME: **Allergen Committee**

DATE OF REPORT: Initial fall progress report Spring progress report Second fall progress report

Date submitted: 7/11/2019

Date amended (if applicable): 34T

Date accepted by Executive Board: 34T

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Council I Council II Council III Executive Board

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: *Jeff Hawley – Committee Chair, Mike Pascucilla – Committee Vice Chair*

COMMITTEE CHARGE(S):

- Review Issues 2018-I-015, 2018-II-007, 2018-II-008 and their original submitted Recommended Solution, including but not limited to:
 - Evaluation of major food allergen disclaimers in retail food establishments.
 - Development of methodology for retail food establishments to notify consumers when menu items contain major food allergens.
 - Determining if any additional staff training for food allergen awareness is needed
 - Identifying any supporting research or evidence that supports recommendations.
- Recommend changes to the Food Code that support retail food establishments in their efforts to protect consumers with major food allergens.
- Report back findings and recommendations to the 2020 Biennial Meeting of the Conference for Food Protection.

COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE:

This Committee has been holding regular conference calls, and workgroup calls between Committee calls. All Committee work will be completed by Sept 1.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: **Dates of committee meetings or conference calls:**

1. **Overview of committee activities:** *Two workgroups were formed to address Committee charges. One workgroup is to address allergen notification in food service establishments. The other workgroup to address food allergen training in food service establishments. Committee members were asked to volunteer for one of the workgroups. Emilee Follett chairs the notification workgroup. Betsy Craig chairs the training workgroup. Committee has had conference calls on 9/28, 11/9, 11/30, 1/25, 2/22, 3/29, 4/26, 5/31 and 6/28. Future calls are scheduled for 7/19, 8/9 and 8/30. Workgroups have had additional calls.*

The notification workgroup developed a food allergy guidance document for food service establishments. This document will be shared with the full committee during the 7/19 call. The workgroup has researched what types of food allergen notifications are currently being used; and what types of notifications are most effective. A survey was sent to the workgroup to get feedback on where allergen notification could be placed in the Food Code. Next step for the workgroup is to review results of the workgroup survey and compile recommendations to the full committee during the 7/19 call.

Consensus of the training workgroup is that additional food allergen training is needed in food service establishments. One option discussed by the workgroup was to remove allergen training from 2-103.11(N) and add a new section with more detail for required food allergen training. Another option discussed is to expand the allergen awareness training verbiage in 2-103.11(N) to include more detail in the required allergen training component. The next step for the workgroup is to discuss options and make recommendations to the full committee during the 7/19 call.

2. **Charges COMPLETED and the rationale for each specific recommendation:**

- a. *None*
- b.

3. **Status of charges still PENDING and activities yet to be completed:**

- a. *Charges will be completed by 9/1/2019*

COMMITTEE REQUESTED ACTION FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD: No requested action at this time

1.

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ATTACHMENTS:

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1. **Content Documents:**

- a. **Committee Member Roster:** See changes noted above under “requested action” No changes to previously approved roster
“Committee Members Template” (Excel) available at: www.foodprotect.org/work/ Committee roster to be submitted as a PDF attachment to this report.
- b. **Committee Generated Content Documents (OPTIONAL):** No draft content documents submitted at this time

2. **Supporting Attachments (OPTIONAL):** Not applicable