

NC FOOD CODE 3-603.11

Consumer Advisory Requirements

Purpose of Advisory: The consumer advisory is intended to inform food service customers, especially highly susceptible customers (children, elderly, pregnant women, immune-compromised), about the risks of consuming raw or undercooked animal foods.

When is a consumer advisory required:

A consumer advisory is required if an animal food such as beef, eggs, fish, lamb, milk, pork, poultry or shellfish is served or sold raw, undercooked, or without otherwise being processed to eliminate pathogens, either in Ready-To-Eat form or as an ingredient in another Ready-to-Eat food.

What are the requirements:

The permit holder shall inform consumers of the significantly increased risk of consuming these foods by way of a DISCLOSURE and REMINDER.

Disclosure shall include

1. A description of the animal-derived foods, such as raw egg Caesar salad, rare or raw meat (e.g. undercooked hamburgers or raw oysters); or
2. Identify the animal derived foods by asterisking them to a footnote that states the items are served raw or undercooked, or contain/may contain raw or under cooked ingredients.

Reminder shall include asterisking the animal derived foods requiring Disclosure to a footnote that states:

1. Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness
2. Written information is available upon request about the safety of consuming these items.

The statement shall be displayed on brochures, deli case or menu advisories, label statements, table tents, placards or other effective written means approved by REHS.

If pasteurized liquid eggs, pasteurized shell eggs or whole meat are used, a Consumer Advisory is not required.

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Consumer Advisory Requirements Examples of Disclosure and Reminder

Example A

Hamburger*
Cheeseburger*

Disclosure: *Hamburgers can be cooked to order.

Reminder: Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness.

Example B

Caesar Salad (dressing contains raw eggs) * **Disclosure**

Reminder: *Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness.

Example C

Oysters on the half shell *(Raw oysters) **Disclosure**

Reminder: *Written information is available upon request regarding the safety of these items.

The following foods may not be served or offered for sale at an establishment serving a highly susceptible population including child care, nursing homes etc.:

Raw animal foods, such as raw fish, raw-marinated fish, raw molluscan shellfish, and steak tartare; partially cooked animal food, such as lightly cooked fish, rare meat, soft-cooked eggs that are made from raw shell eggs, and meringue; and raw seed sprouts.

Though allowed by the Food Code the Chatham County Public Health Department recommends not offering for sale the above foods on a children's menu.



For more information:
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