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## **Major Food Allergen Disclosure Requirements for Food Facilities**

### **Effective Date: July 1, 2026**

Senate Bill 68 amended the California Retail Food Code (CRFC) requirements related to major food allergen awareness and disclosure. This handout provides information about what retail food facilities need to know to stay compliant.

### **What Is a Major Food Allergen?**

Major food allergens include the following:

- Milk
- Eggs
- Fish (e.g., bass, flounder, cod)
- Crustacean shellfish (e.g., crab, lobster, shrimp)
- Tree nuts (e.g., almonds, pecans, walnuts)
- Wheat
- Peanuts
- Soybeans
- Sesame (**new**)

### **Employee Knowledge Still Required**

All food facility operators and employees must continue to have knowledge of major food allergens, foods that contain them, and the symptoms of allergic reactions, as required by CRFC.

### **New Allergen Disclosure Requirements**

The new law requires that certain food facilities provide written notification of major food allergens contained in each menu item. This can be done in one of the following ways:

- Directly on the menu next to each item, OR
- In a digital format (such as a QR code-linked menu), with an alternative written option available for customers who cannot access digital information.

### **Acceptable Disclosure Formats**

- Allergen statements on menus
- Allergen-specific menus
- Allergen charts or grids
- Allergen booklets or other written materials

Allergens must be listed using common names or standardized pictograms.

### **Which Food Facilities Must Comply with the New Allergen Disclosure Requirements?**

Restaurants and other food facilities that are part of a chain with 20 or more locations nationwide and are subject to federal menu labeling requirements must comply with the allergen disclosure rules.

### **Which Food Facilities are Exempt from these New Allergen Disclosure Requirements?**

- Compact mobile food operations
- Nonpermanent food facilities
- Prepackaged foods already subject to federal allergen labeling laws

### **Need more information?**

Contact the Ventura County Environmental Health Division at (805) 654-2813.