

15A NCAC 18A .2661 INSPECTIONS AND REINSPECTIONS

(a) Upon entry into a food establishment, the regulatory authority shall provide identification and the purpose in visiting that establishment. The regulatory authority shall inquire as to the identity of the person in charge and invite the person in charge to accompany the regulatory authority during the inspection. If no employee is identified as the person in charge, the regulatory authority shall invite an employee to accompany the regulatory authority on the inspection. Following the inspection, the regulatory authority shall offer to review the results of the inspection with the person in charge or employee, as applicable.

(b) The grading of food establishments shall be conducted using an inspection form furnished by the regulatory authority. The form shall provide for the following information:

- (1) The name and mailing address of the food establishment;
- (2) The name of the permit holder;
- (3) The permit status and score given;
- (4) Standards of construction and operation as listed in .2651 through .2677 of this Section;
- (5) An explanation for all points deducted;
- (6) The signature of the regulatory authority; and
- (7) The date.

(c) The grading of food establishments shall be based on the standards of operation and construction as set forth in Rules .2650 through .2676 of this Section.

(d) The Food Establishment Inspection form shall be used to document points assessed for violation of the rules of this Section as follows:

- (1) Violation of Chapter 2 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2652 of this Section related to person in charge present, certification by accredited program or performs duties shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (2) Violation of Chapter 2 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2652 of this Section related to management awareness, policy present, and allergy awareness shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (3) Violation of Chapter 2 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2652 of this Section related to proper use of reporting, restriction, and exclusion shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (4) Violation of Chapters 2 and 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2652 and .2653 of this Section related to proper eating, tasting, drinking, or tobacco use shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (5) Violation of Chapter 2 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2652 of this Section related to no discharge from eyes, nose, and mouth shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (6) Violation of Chapter 2 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2652 of this Section related to hands clean and properly washed shall equal no more than 4 points.
- (7) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to no bare hand contact with ready-to-eat food or approved alternate method properly followed shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (8) Violation of Chapters 5 and 6 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2655 and .2656 of this Section related to handwashing facilities supplied and accessible shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (9) Violation of Chapters 3 and 5 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2653 and .2655 of this Section related to food obtained from an approved source shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (10) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to food received at proper temperature shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (11) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to food in good condition, safe, and unadulterated shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (12) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to required records available, shellstock tags, and parasite destruction shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (13) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to food separated and protected shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (14) Violation of Chapter 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2654 of this Section related to food-contact surfaces cleaned and sanitized shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (15) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to disposition of returned, previously served, reconditioned, and unsafe food shall equal no more than 2 points.

- (16) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to cooking time and temperatures shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (17) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to reheating for hot holding shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (18) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to cooling time and temperatures shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (19) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to hot holding temperatures shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (20) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to cold holding temperatures shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (21) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to date marking and disposition shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (22) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to time as a public health control procedures and records shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (23) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to consumer advisory provided for raw or undercooked foods shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (24) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to pasteurized foods used and prohibited foods not offered shall equal no more than 3 points.
- (25) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to food additives approved and properly used shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (26) Violation of Chapter 7 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2657 of this Section related to toxic substances properly identified, stored, and used shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (27) Violation of Chapters 3, 4 and 8 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2653, .2654, and .2658 of this Section related to compliance with variance, specialized process, and HACCP plan shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (28) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to pasteurized eggs used where required shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (29) Violation of Chapters 3 and 5 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2653 and .2655 of this Section related to water from an approved source shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (30) Violation of Chapter 8 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2658 of this Section related to variance obtained for specialized processing methods shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (31) Violation of Chapters 3 and 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2653 and .2654 of this Section related to proper cooling methods used or adequate equipment for temperature control shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (32) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to plant food properly cooked for hot holding shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (33) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to approved thawing methods used shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (34) Violation of Chapter 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2654 of this Section related to thermometers provided and accurate shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (35) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to food properly labeled or original container shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (36) Violation of Chapters 2 and 6 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2652 and .2656 of this Section related to insects and rodents not present or no unauthorized animals or persons shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (37) Violation of Chapters 3 and 6 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2653 and .2656 of this Section related to contamination prevented during food preparation, storage, and display shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (38) Violation of Chapter 2 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2652 of this Section related to personal cleanliness shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (39) Violation of Chapters 3 and 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2653 and .2654 of this Section related to wiping cloths properly used and stored shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (40) Violation of Chapters 3 and 7 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2653 and .2657 of this Section related to washing fruits and vegetables shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (41) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to in-use utensils properly stored shall equal no more than 1 point.

- (42) Violation of Chapter 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2654 of this Section related to utensils, equipment, and linens properly stored, dried and handled shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (43) Violation of Chapter 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2654 of this Section related to single-use and single-service articles properly stored and used shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (44) Violation of Chapter 3 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2653 of this Section related to gloves used properly shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (45) Violation of Chapters 3 and 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2653 and .2654 of this Section related to equipment, food and non-food contact surfaces approved, cleanable, properly designed, constructed and used shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (46) Violation of Chapter 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2654 of this Section related to warewashing facilities installed, maintained, used, and test strips shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (47) Violation of Chapter 4 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2654 of this Section related to non-food contact surfaces clean shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (48) Violation of Chapter 5 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2655 of this Section related to hot and cold water available and adequate pressure shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (49) Violation of Chapter 5 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2655 of this Section related to plumbing installed and proper backflow devices shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (50) Violation of Chapter 5 of the Food Code as amended by Rule .2655 of this Section related to sewage and wastewater properly disposed shall equal no more than 2 points.
- (51) Violation of Chapters 5 and 6 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2655 and .2656 of this Section related to toilet facilities properly constructed, supplied, and cleaned shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (52) Violation of Chapters 5 and 6 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2655 and .2656 of this Section related to garbage and refuse properly disposed and facilities maintained shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (53) Violation of Chapters 4 and 6 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2654 and .2656 of this Section related to physical facilities installed, maintained, and clean shall equal no more than 1 point.
- (54) Violation of Chapters 4 and 6 of the Food Code as amended by Rules .2654 and .2656 of this Section related to meets ventilation and lighting requirements and designated areas used shall equal no more than 1 point.

(e) In filling out the inspection form, points may be deducted only once for a single occurrence or condition existing within or outside of the food establishment. Deductions shall be based on actual violations of the rules of this Section observed during the inspection. The regulatory authority shall take zero, one-half, or a full deduction of points depending upon the severity or the recurring nature of the core item violations. Priority items or priority foundation items may be corrected during the inspection and no more than one-half of the total point value shall be deducted when the violation meets the following criteria:

- (1) The priority item or priority foundation item violation was not documented on the previous inspection; and
- (2) Correction of the item is documented on the inspection form.

(f) At the time of inspection, if a priority item or priority foundation item violation is observed and not corrected, the regulatory authority shall take one-half or a full deduction of points depending upon the severity or the recurring nature of the violation. The regulatory authority shall specify a time frame of no more than 10 calendar days to correct the priority items or priority foundation items.

(g) In determining whether items or areas of a food establishment are clean for purposes of enforcing the rules set forth in this Section and grading a food establishment, the regulatory authority shall consider, among other things:

- (1) The age of the accumulated material;
- (2) The relative percentage of items which are clean and not clean;
- (3) The cleaning practices of the food establishment; and
- (4) The health risk posed by the circumstances.

(h) Upon request of the permit holder or his or her representative a reinspection shall be made. In the case of a food establishment that requests an inspection for the purpose of raising the alphabetical grade, and that holds an unrevoked permit, the regulatory authority shall make an unannounced inspection within 15 days from the date of the request.

(i) In the case of food establishments that have been closed for failure to comply with the rules of this Section, a reinspection to consider the issuance or reissuance of a permit shall be made at the earliest convenience of the regulatory authority.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-248; S.L. 2011-394, Section 15(a);
Eff. September 1, 2012;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. July 20,
2019.*