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Buffalo County Health Department
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

How to Determine Retail Food Establishment - Serving Meals: License Complexity Category

Retail food establishments serving meals are placed into four categories based on food safety risks. A retail food establishment serving meals that are prepackaged and TCS only prepares individually wrapped, single food servings, which are packaged off-premises by a licensed processor, with the on-premises activity limited to heating and serving. EXAMPLE—whole frozen pizzas.

The other three categories (simple, moderate and complex) use a point system to determine the license complexity category. Use the chart below to calculate your license complexity category.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment has a self-service salad bar or food bar. Does not include condiments, bakery or toppings.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment processes fresh or frozen raw poultry, meat, seafood, or eggs.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment operates using a variance or HACCP plan.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment operates using a Bare Hand Contact or Time as a Public Health Control Plan.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment offers catering or preordered meals in bulk quantity for events.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment cold holds, hot holds, or reheats time/temperature control for safety (TCS) foods.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment does cooling of cooked or reheated time/temperature control for safety (TCS) foods.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment wholesales food that requires refrigeration.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment chops, dices, mixes, slices, blanches, boils, cooks, packages, or assembles product.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment has an additional area(s), other than the main kitchen, where food preparation activities occur.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment prepares food specifically for a highly susceptible population, such as a nursing home or day care.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment has a customer seating capacity greater than 75 or has a drive-through window.	1

	Total Points: (0 – 2.5, simple), (2.75 – 4.5, moderate), (Greater than 4.5, complex)	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	0 – 2.5, simple
<input type="checkbox"/>	2.75 – 4.5, moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater than 4.5, complex

Please review Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 75.08 for specific rule language regarding category assignment.