

food industry fact sheet



What to do if you suspect a food service or catering business is operating without a licence or registration

The primary reason for licensing and registration requirements is to ensure that a business is equipped to produce safe and suitable food. Unlicensed or unregistered businesses cause problems for industry, regulators and consumers for a variety of reasons. These problems include:

- Reduced operating costs, creating an uneven playing field for businesses doing the right thing
- Increased risk of food borne illness caused by improper handling practices or unsuitable equipment
- Reduced consumer confidence in industry

Licensing and registration allows local governments to ensure that food handlers have adequate skills and knowledge in food safety and food hygiene and that the business has the necessary equipment to handle, store and transport food safely.

Businesses are not required by law to display their certificate of licence and registration. However, some local governments may require a business to do so as a condition of the licence and registration. Consumers should always ask the business to produce a copy of their licensing and registration if they have any doubts.

You can also contact your local government to verify that their licence and registration are current.

As a business competitor, it is important to understand that it is not your responsibility to approach a business that you believe does not have a licence and registration. Your local government Environmental Health Officer (EHO) is the only one authorised to take any action.

If you believe that a business is operating without a licence and registration, you should notify your local government EHO advising them with as many details about the business as possible, including:

- Business/trading name
- Address/location
- Type of foods sold
- Day and time they were operating
- Vehicle registration number if applicable

You can help the public know that you are licensed and registered by ensuring that your licence and registration is current and display or produce a copy when requested.

Where do I go for more information?

- **Restaurant and Catering Queensland**
PO Box 101
Royal Brisbane Hospital
QLD 4029
Telephone: 07 3252 8880
Facsimile: 07 3252 7554

Email:
rcqld@restaurantcater.asn.au

Web Site:
www.restaurantcater.asn.au

or contact the Environmental Health Officer from your local government.



Queensland Government
Queensland Health



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC.



Australian Institute of Environmental Health

A joint initiative between **Restaurant and Catering Queensland, Queensland Health, Local Government Association of Queensland and the Australian Institute of Environmental Health** to assist the food service industry produce safe food.