

Cottage Food Guidelines (Louisiana House Bill #1270 simplified)

Proposed law retains present law and extends application of the general exception to food preparation regulations provided therein to all home-based preparers of low-risk foods. Proposed law provides that for purposes of proposed law, "low-risk foods" shall include all of the following, none of which shall consist of any animal muscle protein or fish protein:

- (1) Baked goods, including breads, cakes, cookies, and pies.
- (2) Candies.
- (3) Dried mixes.
- (4) Honey and honeycomb products.
- (5) Jams, jellies, and preserves.
- (6) Pickles and acidified foods.
- (7) Sauces and syrups.
- (8) Spices.

Present law provides that the general exception to food preparation regulations provided therein shall not apply to any preparer of cakes and cookies who employs an individual to assist in the preparation of such food products. Proposed law retains present law and adds stipulation that preparers of breads or pies who employ an individual for such purpose shall not qualify for the exception to food preparation regulations.

Present law provides that no preparer of cakes or cookies to which present law applies shall sell such food products to any retail business or individual for resale. Proposed law retains present law and extends to home-based preparers of breads and pies the prohibition on selling foods for resale.

Proposed law extends to home-based preparers of breads and pies all of the following specific requirements relative to the food preparation facility and procedures provided in present law for preparers of cakes and cookies:

- (1) All outside openings of the building shall be protected against flies and other vermin.
- (2) The building shall be constructed so as to exclude rats, mice, roaches, or other vermin. Domestic pets shall be excluded in any part of the establishment where preparation and baking takes place.
- (3) All equipment used or connected in any way with the manufacture, baking, cooking or other processing, handling, packing, or storing of any bakery products shall comply with the following:

(a) Be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner, be free from cracks, and, wherever possible, be composed of non-corroding metal or other smooth,

impervious material giving an easily cleanable surface. Stationary or not readily-movable equipment shall be so installed as to provide for easy cleaning.

(b) Refrigeration shall be provided so that all perishable food products used in the manufacturer processing of any kind connected with the production, distribution, or sale of bakery products shall be maintained at a temperature not to exceed forty-five degrees Fahrenheit.

(c) Equipment too large to permit washing in the sinks shall be cleaned in a manner approved by the state health officer.

(d) All barrels, boxes, tubs, pails, kneading troughs, machines, racks, pans, or other receptacles used for holding materials from which bakery products are manufactured shall be kept clean and sanitary and shall be so constructed as to be easily cleanable.

(e) All food contact surfaces shall be cleaned and sanitized after each day's production.

(4) Only pasteurized milk or milk products shall be used in the preparation of custard and cream-filled bakery products.

(5) All custard or cream-filled mixtures shall be cooked, the temperature and time of heating of the mix, to be at a minimum, the equivalent of a temperature of one hundred forty-five degrees Fahrenheit for a period of not less than thirty minutes.

(6) Upon completion of the cooking of the mix, it shall be immediately transferred into previously sanitized containers, properly covered and chilled as rapidly as possible to forty-five degrees Fahrenheit or below and maintained at such a temperature until used.

(7) The apparatus and food contact surfaces used in adding any custard or cream filling to a bakery product shall be of impervious material and shall be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after each use, in a manner approved by the state health officer. No cloth filled bags shall be used.

Proposed law deletes references to confectionery products in present law and proposed law providing specific requirements for preparation of certain baked goods.

Proposed law requires individuals who prepare low-risk foods in the home for sale, as authorized by present law and proposed law, to affix to any such food offered for sale a label that clearly indicates that the food was not produced in a licensed or regulated facility. The exception is raw honey: (D)“(b) The food labeling requirement in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall not apply to raw honey offered for sale if the honey is not pasteurized, filtered, or otherwise processed in such a way as to remove natural pollen contained in the honey.”

