



Wisconsin Restaurant Association

City of Milwaukee

Placard Posting and Food Protection Manager Re-certification by Exam Position Paper

Support of Inspection Information Placards

The Wisconsin Restaurant Association supports initiatives that both educate the public and ensure confidence in the safety of dining out.

Since 2007, the City of Milwaukee has made it easier for the public to see a restaurant's inspection reports through its online, searchable database. We commend the City for its leadership in providing a database that is accessible by the public, but also educating the public regarding the complexities of food safety and how to interpret that complex information found on restaurant inspection reports.

WRA believes that for any public information initiative to be successful, consumer education is key for success. Inspection scores and letter grades are not the answer to ensuring public confidence in dining out. Identifying and understanding what the most important food safety principles are and which restaurants comply with those principles helps the consumer feel confident in their dining choices.

Because of City's approach to public education and awareness, the WRA supports the City's proposal to require placards be placed in all restaurant's in its jurisdiction directing customers to the City's online searchable restaurant inspection report database.

Certified Food Protection Manager Recertification by Exam

By following national standards and requiring a nationally-accredited exam, the City of Milwaukee can strengthen recertification's important role in ensuring Food Protection Managers and their employees have up-to-date knowledge of basic food safety practices.

The group that has long set the nation's food safety standards, the National Conference for Food Protection (CFP), states that an individual must be recertified by testing through an accredited exam development organization.

Wisconsin law requires food protection managers to recertify every five years. However, this process currently involves a simple certificate of completion rather than a CFP accredited exam. We do not believe this is a strong enough standard to ensure food safety knowledge of the Food Protection Manager.

Wisconsin is one of only three states that allow recertification via continuing education. In contrast, over 100 states and/or local jurisdictions require recertification through CFP accredited-examinations.

We commend the City of Milwaukee for its desire to exceed the state minimum standards and join the other 100 jurisdictions nationwide which require Food Protection Manager to recertify every five years by a CFP-accredited examination.