

Food Protection Manager Certification

Improving Food Safety in the Commonwealth

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) amended the [Retail Food Establishment Regulations](#) (2VAC5-585 et. seq.) in 2016. Part of the amendment requires *most* food establishments to have a certified food protection manager (CFPM) on staff no later than **July 1, 2018**. At least one food establishment employee with supervisory and management responsibility and the authority to direct and control food preparation and service must be a certified food protection manager. This document will provide information on how to obtain certification and provide insight on the importance of the food protection manager's role in the workplace.

What is a Certified Food Protection Manager?

According to the regulations, a CFPM is any person who has passed a certified food protection manager examination with an accredited organization.

Food establishments with certified food managers typically.....



have better food **safety practices** and **behaviors**.



have fewer instances of **foodborne illness**



are less likely to have **serious violations** on their **inspections**

Why is certification important?

Not only is a CFPM required in the regulations, food establishments that have CFPMs on staff were found to have fewer violations related to inspection items that are directly related to foodborne illness. Lastly, being certified shows that one has the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to oversee the safe storage, preparation and sale of food to the public.

How do I obtain my certification?

Certification is obtained by successfully passing an examination. VDACS recognizes the following certification courses and examinations accredited through the Conference for Food Protection: (1) National Registry of Food Safety Professionals, (2) Prometric, (3) ServSafe®, (4) 360training.com, and (5) Statefoodsafety.com.

Questions? Comments? Please contact VDACS at FoodSafety@vdacs.virginia.gov or 804-786-3520.