



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**ROY COOPER** • Governor  
**MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH** • Secretary  
**MARK T. BENTON** • Assistant Secretary for Public Health  
Division of Public Health

May 27, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local Health Department Environmental Health Food and Lodging Programs

**FROM:** Shane Smith, Branch Head, Food Protection and Facilities Branch  
Environmental Health Section

**SUBJECT:** Point Deductions for Expired Certified Food Protection Manager Certificates  
and COVID-19

Due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19, food establishments are currently struggling to overcome significant hurdles in their food service operations and may not have access to Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) certification testing. The ability to renew CFPM certification is challenging because of reduced class offerings, social distancing measures, and increased costs due to labor shortages and lost revenues. Recognizing the current challenges associated with CFPM certification, the NC Division of Public Health is providing the following guidance for local regulatory authorities regarding point deductions for CFPM certificate evaluations per Section 2-102.11 of the North Carolina Food Code Manual in accordance with 15A NCAC 18A .2661(e).

***Immediately effective, May 27, 2020, and until this memorandum is rescinded or replaced, establishments with a Person in Charge (PIC) present with a CFPM certificate that has expired since March 1, 2020, should be marked OUT and assessed zero (0) points on the inspection form.*** This does not absolve the permit holder's responsibility to have a PIC present per Section 2-101.11 during routine operations, nor does it absolve them from maintaining their PIC duties per Section 2-103.11 of the NC Food Code Manual. Non-compliance with these Sections shall be assessed per the NC Food Code Manual marking instructions and 15A NCAC 18A .2661(e).

Please contact your Environmental Health Regional Specialist with any questions or concerns or contact me at [shane.smith@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:shane.smith@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-707-5872. If we can help in any way during this time, please let us know.

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