

# Ohio Level 2 Food Safety Certification FAQs

**Q: Why do I have to do this?**

A: A new rule (Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code 3717-1-02.4(A)(2)) mandates that each food facility **licensed as a risk class 3 and risk class 4** must have one employee who has supervisory and management responsibility and the authority to direct and control food preparation and service earn an Ohio Level 2 certification in food protection by March 1, 2017.

**Q: When is the deadline?**

A: March 1, 2017. Every facility was given a one year grace period to comply with this requirement.

**Q: What is the penalty for failure to comply?**

A: Noncompliance will be documented as a noncritical violation on the Standard Inspection Report for your facility during inspection(s) conducted on or after March 1, 2017. Facilities will be given ample time to demonstrate compliance with the new rule. However, operators who willfully refuse to comply will eventually be subject to the administrative enforcement process. This includes possible suspension and / revocation of the license for the facility.

**Q: I own more than one facility. Will my certification be valid for each of my facilities?**

A: No. The new rule states that each facility must have one Ohio Level 2 certified manager. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has stated that a certified individual cannot serve more than one location.

**Q: How do I earn this certification?**

A: You can earn an Ohio Level 2 certification in one of 2 ways:

- Enroll in and complete an ODH approved Level 2 certification course and examination. If you attend a course offered by an ODH-approved course provider and pass the certification exam, your Level 2 certificate will be obtained on your behalf. For information on ODH approved training providers in Ohio, refer to [ODH website](#)
- For those individuals who have a current certificate in food protection for an approved course, the ODH has made it possible to earn the Ohio Level 2 certificate through a process called reciprocity. Reciprocity requires the submission of three (3) documents to the ODH: A completed [application for reciprocity](#); a copy of your current certificate in food protection; and a copy of the course curriculum for the certification course that you attended. The curriculum should list the subject matter studied, and the amount of time spent studying it. A minimum of 15 hours is required by code.

Note: The ODH certification database extends as far back as 2009. If you have completed a course in food protection and passed the examination proctored by an ODH-registered course provider, you may

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already be in their database. Contact the ODH, Bureau of Environmental Health at (614)466-1390 or your assigned Sanitarian to find out if you are in their database.

**Q: Does Clermont County Public Health offer certification opportunities?**

A: Yes. Clermont County Public Health is an ODH-registered proctor of the ServSafe Manager certification course and examination. You can find our 2017 registration form and course schedule [here](#).

**Q: What if I can't get away from my business for two full days to complete the class and exam? Are there any online options for certification?**

A: Yes. There are many online food protection courses that are approved by the ODH. The study portion can be completed online. However, the accompanying exam must be completed at a registered testing location. Clermont County Public Health is offering ServSafe Manager exam sessions in 2017 for individuals who complete the online training and for individuals who may need to retake the exam. You can find our 2017 exam registration form and course schedule [here](#).

**Q: What if I fail the exam?**

A: You may sit for the exam twice within a 30-day period, if necessary. If three or more attempts are required, the examinee must wait at least 60 days from the date of their last attempt. Not more than 4 attempts are allowed in any 12-month period.

**Q: I have limited proficiency in English. What are my options?**

A: Clermont County Public Health instructs the ServSafe Manager course in English. Examinations can be made available in the following languages on the exam date: English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Korean, French Canadian, and Large Print English. Opportunities to attend a certification course and examination in your native language are available from the larger, more metropolitan health districts in Ohio. Spanish instruction is available through Hamilton County Public Health. Mandarin Chinese instruction is available through Columbus Public Health.