

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Health Licensing of Food Business Operators Under Section 16[1] of the Food Safety Act 2003

The Ministry of Health & Medical Services [MHMS] wishes to advice the members of the public that all premises engaged in food business operations must have current Health License issued by the Central Board of Health in accordance with Part 3 Section 16 and 17 of the Act.

Registered food business operators are also advised to renew their Health License prior to 31st December 2023.

The purpose of licensing is to ensure compliance to the regulatory standards for food safety in food establishments to ensure cleanliness of facilities and to prevent food-borne diseases.

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- 1. Completed and signed 25th Schedule application form available at the respective District Health Office or City/Town Council Municipalities Health Department.
- 2. Copy of Certificate Business/Company Registration
- 3. Tax Compliance Letter
- 4. Prescribed Fee(s).

Application for issuance or renewal of Health License must be lodged along with the fee prescribed in the 26th Schedule with an Authorized Officer of the Food Authority in which the premises is located.

The Authorized Officer shall cause for an inspection of the premises to assess compliance with Section 20 of the Act and ensure that the food business operations to be conducted or being conducted on the premises comply with all requirements of the Act and its Regulations.

Upon completion of the inspection the Authorized Officer of the Food Authority will send the recommendations thereon to the Central Board of Health with the above mentioned documents, fee and any such report for the issuance or renewal Health License.

The Central Board of Health under Section 28 of the Act is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Food Safety in Fiji with the powers to issue license, to refuse, to vary, suspend or cancel a license when the establishment is found to be in non-compliance to the conditions imposed by the Board or any other condition prescribed by the Food Safety Act and Regulations.

A Health License issued under the Act is only valid for the period ending 31st December each year.

No person must operate a Food Establishment unless the establishment is licensed under the Act. A person who contravenes the above commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to fine not exceeding \$10,000 or 5 year's imprisonment.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact the Food Unit/Competent Authority on telephone: 3306177/3215058/3215056 or via email: <u>sanjeet.prasad@govnet.gov.fj</u>



Mr. Vimal Deo Chief Health Inspector Secretary – Central Board of Health