

HACCP-Based SOPs

Cooking Potentially Hazardous Foods

PURPOSE: To prevent foodborne illness by ensuring that all foods are cooked to the appropriate internal temperature.

SCOPE: This procedure applies to foodservice employees who prepare or serve food.

KEY WORDS: Cross-Contamination, Temperatures, Cooking

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Train foodservice employees on using the procedures in this SOP. Refer to the Using and Calibrating Thermometers SOP.
2. Follow State or local health department requirements.
3. If a recipe contains a combination of meat products, cook the product to the highest required temperature.
4. Cook products to the following temperatures:
 - a. 63 °C for 15 seconds
 - Seafood, beef, and pork
 - Eggs cooked to order that are placed onto a plate and immediately served
 - b. 68 °C for 15 seconds
 - Ground products containing beef, pork, or fish
 - Fish nuggets or sticks
 - Eggs held on a steam table
 - Cubed or Salisbury steaks
 - c. 74 °C for 15 seconds
 - Poultry
 - Stuffed fish, pork, or beef
 - Pasta stuffed with eggs, fish, pork, or beef (such as lasagna)
 - d. 60 °C for 15 seconds
 - Fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables that are going to be held on a steam table or in a hot box

Cooking Potentially Hazardous Foods, continued

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MONITORING:

1. Use a clean, sanitized, and calibrated probe thermometer, preferably a thermocouple.
2. Avoid inserting the thermometer into pockets of fat or near bones when taking internal cooking temperatures.
3. Take at least two internal temperatures from each batch of food by inserting the thermometer into the thickest part of the product which usually is in the center.
4. Take at least two internal temperatures of each large food item, such as a turkey, to ensure that all parts of the product reach the required cooking temperature.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

1. Retrain any foodservice employee found not following the procedures in this SOP.
2. Continue cooking food until the internal temperature reaches the required temperature.