



**Western Bay of Plenty
District Council**

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Healthy Food Premises

*For buyers of existing food
premises*

Check with us before buying

If you are looking into buying an existing food business such as a restaurant, fast food outlet or factory that processes or sells food products to the public, there is an important check we recommend you make first, to ensure that the business meets all its legal requirements:

Get a LIM report

Apply to us for a Land Information Memorandum (LIM report) for the property on which the premises is located.

A LIM report gives you important information about the property. It will include detail of any requisitions our Environmental Health Officer may have imposed for the upgrading of any aspect of the premises to meet the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974.

You should be aware of any requisitions imposed on the premises, before finalising any purchase agreement. The LIM report will indicate any non-complying aspects of the premises and what is required to rectify them.

Once you become the owner it becomes your responsibility to ensure the premises comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974.

If you don't make this check before purchase, you could find yourself responsible for the cost of upgrading the premises to meet the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974 - work that should have been done by the previous owner.

Your ongoing responsibilities

Register ownership change within 14 days. All food premises are required by law, to be registered and we are responsible for making sure this happens.

Within 14 days of purchasing a food premises you must complete a Registered Premises Change of Ownership form, and return it to the Council along with the change of

ownership payment. These forms are available at any of our offices.

We will process the change of ownership notification and send you a new registration certificate made out in your name as the new owner.

Meeting Hygiene Regulation standards

As a new owner you must ensure the premises continue to operate within legal requirements, this means:

- complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974, and
- annual registration of the premises

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1974 require food premises to be registered before food can be prepared, manufactured or sold to the public. It is an offence to operate a food premises that is not registered

How we help you

We send you a letter to let you know we will be calling to inspect your premises. This annual inspection is required before the registration can be renewed and the certificate issued.

The current Certificate must be displayed on the premises in public view.

Food Safety Plan Option

The alternative to registering your premises is to seek exemption by registering a Food Safety Plan with the Ministry of Health. This plan would be developed for you by an independent consultant and then independently audited each year.

For more information about this option contact Eastbay Health Ltd, Medical Officer of Health, 07 571 8975.