

Food Establishment Lighting Requirements

Lighting in all food establishments shall comply with the requirements of the Food Regulation (Alberta Regulation 31/2006) and the Alberta Food Retail and Foodservices Code (October 2003).

The Food Regulation:

Section 17 (1) states that an operator must ensure that, before operation of the commercial food establishment commences, the commercial food establishment

- (a) is of sound construction and in good state of repair,
- (b) is designed so as to facilitate the effective cleaning and sanitizing of it and all equipment, utensils and surfaces with which the food comes into contact in it,
- (f)(iii) is equipped with lighting that is adequate in intensity to enable the sanitary operation and maintenance of the food areas.

The Alberta Food Retail and Foodservices Code:

Section 2.7 states that:

- (a) Lighting and lighting fixtures should be designed to prevent accumulation of dirt and be easily cleanable.
- (b) Food establishments should be supplied with sufficient artificial light to ensure the safe and sanitary production of food, and facilitate cleaning of the premises. Unless otherwise specified, the **minimum** lighting intensities should be:
 - i) 110 lux (at a distance of 3 ft. above the floor) in walk-in coolers, dry food storage areas, and in all other areas and rooms during periods of cleaning
 - ii) 220 lux (at a distance of 3 ft. above the floor) in areas where fresh produce or packaged foods are sold or offered for consumption; areas used for handwashing, warewashing, and equipment and utensil storage; and in toilet rooms; and
 - iii) 540 lux at the surface where a food handler is working with unpackaged potentially hazardous food or with food utensils and equipment such as knives, slicers, grinders, or saws where employee/worker safety is a factor.

Note: *Lux (lx) is an SI unit equal to 0.0929 foot-candles (fc); 550 and 330 lx are equivalent to 50 and 30 fc respectively.*

- (c) Lighting fixtures should be shielded with shatterproof coverings in areas where there is exposed food, equipment, utensils, linens or unwrapped single-service and single-use articles. Shielded lighting is not necessary in areas only used for storing food in unopened packages if:
 - i) the integrity of the food packages cannot be affected by broken glass falling onto them; and
 - ii) the food packages are capable of being cleaned of debris from broken glass before the packages are opened.
- (d) Infrared or other heat lamps should be protected against breakage by a shield surrounding and extending beyond the bulb so that only the face of the bulb is exposed.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health Services office.