
Recognition and Verification of Environmental Health Specialists

- ❖ Have you ever wondered if the person inspecting your restaurant really is a Health Inspector?
- ❖ Have you ever had someone call and ask you detailed questions about your business and request personal information?
- ❖ Have you ever had someone call saying they are from the Health Department and will close your facility unless you contact them?

Questions like these should raise a red flag and make you question the legitimacy of the person claiming to be a Health Inspector.

If you are approached/contacted by someone claiming to be an Environmental Health Specialist (Health Inspector) and you feel that they may not be an employee of Orange County Environmental Health, verify with one of the following methods:

- Ask for a valid photo ID and/or business card that shows that they work for the County of Orange.
- Ask to see the County badge and verify that the badge number matches their business card.
- Contact Environmental Health at (714) 433-6000 to verify that they are a current employee.

If the individual is not able to provide any identification and Environmental Health cannot confirm that they are a current employee, **contact the local law enforcement agency.**

The impersonation of a public officer is a criminal offense. Anyone found impersonating a health inspector or any government employee is guilty of a felony.

State Regulation as a Retail Food Facility Operator:

As stated in the California Retail Food Code section 114390(C): *“An employee may refuse entry to an enforcement officer who is unable to present official identification showing the enforcement officer's picture and enforcement agency name. In the absence of the identification card, a business card showing the enforcement agency's name plus a picture identification card such as a driver's license shall meet this requirement.”*

Other Items of Note:

Under no circumstances should a food facility operator ever give money to an Environmental Health employee outside of a County of Orange facility. All fees are collected either through billing or collected at the Environmental Health Office. If an Environmental Health Specialist ever demands cash on site during an inspection, immediately contact Environmental Health.

If you have any further questions, contact this agency at (714) 433-6000.