



# HEALTH CARE AGENCY/PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH *INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN*



## ATTENTION HOLIDAY GIFT BASKET VENDORS



Holiday gift basket sales are popular in Orange County during the holiday season. The gift baskets often contain a variety of food type items including several types of packaged foods, dry candy, preserves, and bottled drinks.

In some cases, food items included in holiday gift baskets may have been processed or otherwise handled in an unapproved facility or at a private home under unsanitary and unsafe conditions. It is for this reason that the Health and Safety Code (H&SC) prohibits the retail sales or the serving of perishable foods prepared or processed at an unapproved facility or out of a private residence.

In addition, the California Health and Safety Code also requires that any person, or other business, apply for and receive a Health Permit issued by Orange County Health Care Agency before beginning any food sales within the County. A permit will be issued by this Agency when it is determined that the method of operation conforms to the sanitation and safety standards of the Health and Safety Code. A permit will be valid only for the person, location, type of food sales, or distribution activity approved, and is not transferable.

The following is a summary of some of the important requirements for holiday gift basket sales:

1. Retailers of gift baskets may be required to meet all applicable H&SC requirements and obtain a health permit prior to commencement of sales. Please contact our office to determine if a health permit is required.
2. All food items must be from an approved source and held under sanitary conditions. No home preparation or home repackaging of food is permitted.
3. All food items must be in the manufacturers original, unopened package. Foods, other than prepackaged, shall not be kept, displayed or sold in the gift basket.
4. All food must be properly labeled in English with:
  - a. Common name of the product.
  - b. Name and address of the packer, distributor, or manufacturer.
  - c. Net weight, quantity, or numerical count of the packaged product.
  - d. Ingredients listed in order of predominance by weight.
5. Gift baskets containing food products may only be sold only at an approved location.

To obtain a health permit or if you require further information about holiday gift basket food sales, please contact this office at (714) 433-6000.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION**