



Worldchefs Food Safety Regulations

The following information is to be read in conjunction with the WORLDCHEFS's Competition Guidelines.

NOTES: Tasting judges do not share plates, 1 x plate will be as a sample and the other meals will be portioned by a Rookie Jury member or a dedicated wait-person

The Five Keys to Worldchefs Food Safety in Competitions

The core messages of the Five Keys to Safer Food are: (1) keep clean; (2) separate raw and cooked; (3) cook correctly; (4) keep food at safe temperatures, and (5) selection of safe raw materials to produce the items.

1. **Keep Clean** *(It takes over 2.5 billion bacteria to make 250 ml of water look cloudy, but in some cases, it takes only 15-20 pathogenic bacteria to make one sick)*
 - a. Wash and sanitize all surfaces and cooking equipment in the preparation area of the kitchen.
 - b. Fruits and vegetables need to be washed and packed in appropriate containers.
 - c. The kitchen area needs to be spotless as it is a showcase of our profession.
 - d. All the equipment, tools, utensils, or service wear including knives and knife containers (wraps, etc...) you may be using, must be clean.
 - e. Floor, walls, cabinets and refrigeration in the competition arena, and the cart or transport equipment must be kept clean.

2. **Separate Raw and Cooked** *(Keeping raw and prepared food separate prevents the transfer of microorganisms. Cross-contamination is a term used to describe the transfer of microorganisms from raw to cooked food, and to the equipment used in the vicinity of the food items)*
 - a. All food ingredients should be packed separately and labelled clearly by; name and date of packing, and if required, "use by" date.
 - b. Raw poultry, fish, seafood, and meat proteins are to be housed in their own closed containers. These items must be transported and stored at <5°C (41°F).
 - c. Various packed and labelled dry items can be stored on the same tray.
 - d. Cooked food items must be stored above raw items to avoid drips and cross contamination. There should be no contact between the two items.

3. **Cook Correctly** *(Correct cooking or care of food can kill almost all dangerous microorganisms, which ensure the jury, and guests in attendance, that the food is safe for consumption)*



- a. A standard HACCP sheet should be used in the preparation and cooking of the proteins. Ideally this sheet should contain the following:
 - i. Name of item being cooked
 - ii. Temperature of item prior to cooking
 - iii. Length of time during which the items were subjected to heat
 - iv. The actual temperature upon cooking
 - v. Time at which the cooking process was completed
 - b. Blanched items should be shocked immediately in clean iced water to stop the cooking process, then drained and stored in a clearly labelled and covered container.
 - c. If your National Cuisine needs a partially cooked item to be blanched /dried, then cooked again, please clearly highlight this to the jury members – example Peking Duck. These items are to be held in a clean area to avoid bacteria.
4. **Keep Food at a Safe Temperature** - *Microorganisms multiply quickly if food is not stored correctly. Holding food at a temperature below 5°C (40°F) or above 60°C (140°F), slows down or stops the growth of microorganisms but some dangerous microorganisms can still grow below 5°C (40°F).*
- 5.
- a. As mentioned under **Cooking Correctly**, HACCP sheet should be used in all food preparations.
 - b. Raw proteins can only be left on work table if it is stored on ice, or ice pad, and covered with more ice pad or other cold systems. The temperature of this protein must be kept below 10°C (50°F).
 - c. Cooked food needs to be held above 60°C (140°F) to avoid microbial growth, and ensure the food is served hot to members of the jury and to the guests
 - d. Cooked food can be served à la minute to avoid this.
 - e. A HACCP sheet should be posted on each refrigerator and, or, freezer door. Temperatures must be recorded every hour, and corrective actions must be taken if doors are left open too long.
 - f. Hot food must be cooled to <5°C (4°F) before it can be refrigerated.
 - g. All food items to be refrigerated or kept in the freezer must be covered and labelled.
6. **Selection of Safe Raw materials** (*Raw materials including ice may be contaminated with dangerous microorganisms and chemicals. Toxic chemical can form in mouldy food like fruit and vegetables*)
- a. Temperatures of your produce should be recorded at the market, when you arrive in your preparation facility, and also in your cooking competition kitchen – HACCP.
 - b. Fruits and vegetables should be checked for worms, grubs and mould.
 - c. Fish, seafood and meat proteins need to be <5°C and not bruised or damaged.



- d. Check that fish exhibit all signs of freshness, and verify that they do not have worms or parasites. Verify for signs of freshness.
- e. All dry ingredients, and all fresh, frozen, cured, or smoked food should have the use by or expiring dates checked.

DRESS STANDARDS

Ideally, all members of a team should be dressed near identically.

1. Chef's jacket – The chefs or team of chefs, should enter the competition arena wearing a clean white, pressed chef's jacket.
2. Chef's hat – Standard chef hats, or competition sponsored hats must be worn. Individual event skull caps may be worn.
3. White apron is the standard apron for competitions. Pale coloured ones, and butcher striped aprons are accepted.
4. Safety style, non-slip, must to be worn. Sport shoes are not allowed in the kitchen.
5. Neckties – are optional.
6. No visible jewellery is to be worn except for a wedding band, ear stud (no more than 7 mm diameter) or sleeper (small rings).
7. No watches to be worn in the competition kitchen.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

1. Male chefs should be clean shaven.
2. Chefs with beards must wear a beard net.
3. Chefs should be clean and showered and demonstrate good personal hygiene.
4. Hair which touch the collar, or fall below the collar, must be restrained and covered with a hair net.
5. After shave and perfumes must not be over powering
6. Sleeves of chef's jackets must be a minimum of elbow length.
7. Correct footwear must be clean.

FOOD & DRINK DURING COMPETITION

1. Industrially bottled and packaged beverages may be consumed in the competition kitchen.
2. Industrially produced and packaged energy bars or gels, can be consumed in the competition kitchen.
3. Prepared and cooked foods, like sandwiches or salads, can only be consumed during breaks, and outside the kitchen.

GENERAL RULES TO FOLLOW

1. Tasting of food must be carried out with disposable single use utensils, or utensils that are washed after each tasting.



2. Remove a sample of a product from the container with one spoon.
3. Transfer the product sample onto a second spoon, away from the original food container or preparation area.
4. Sample the product by tasting.
5. Never re-use used spoons. Use clean and sanitary spoons for each tasting. Always use two spoons to ensure sanitary practices are being followed and the product is not contaminated.
6. Double dipping into sauces or food items with the same spoon is strictly prohibited.
7. Food items in transport, and stored, must be covered with clear plastic or a lid.
8. Ready To Eat food (RTE) should not be handled with bare hands.
9. Equipment acceptable for the handling of cooked food are: tongs, chop sticks, or tweezers.
10. Work areas should always be cleared of unnecessary items.
11. Basic spills should be cleaned up immediately.
12. Knives must be kept clean at all times.
13. Food trimmings should be identified and labelled.
14. Food trimmings from your mise en place, that may be used later, should be kept separately, not mixed together, labelled, and stored at 5°C (41°F).
15. Hand paper towels to be used for work surface ~~bench~~ and hands wiping.
16. Cloth towels should only be used to handle hot items.
17. Cutting boards in PEHD (polyethylene high-density) material are preferred and should be color coded: green for vegetable, red for meat, blue for fish, brown for cooked meats, and violet for vegan.
18. White is acceptable as a neutral color for all tasks. Cutting boards should always be clean.
19. Use of wooden cutting boards is not authorized.
20. Cardboard or any porous containers and boxes are not allowed to enter kitchen.
21. Nothing is allowed to be stored on the floor.

- 1) Face Mask / Face Shield: When requested by the local health authorities or the organisers
 - a. These forms of PPE must be worn during the entire competition while in the competition arena.
 - b. They must be changed:
 - i. In preparation for service
 - ii. If they are spoiled in any way
 - iii. Upon returning to the kitchen after any break



2) Hand Washing:

It is a 30 second process which must take place;

- a. Upon arrival to the kitchen
- b. At the start of the actual competition
- c. When hands become soiled
- d. On the hour
- e. After handling raw proteins
- f. When each task is finished
- g. After mise en place has been set
- h. Before service
- i. After visiting the wash room
- j. After handling rubbish
- k. At all times upon returning to the kitchen.

3) Sanitizing:

Recommended chemical sanitizer must be applied for a minimum of 10 seconds before it can be wiped off with a paper towel or scrapper-

- a. All work surface must be sanitized upon arrival into kitchen.
- b. All benches must be sanitized at the start of the competition.
- c. All benches must need to be sanitized as they become soiled.
- d. All benches must be sanitized at the completion of each task.
- e. All benches must be sanitized prior to starting service.
- f. All benches must be sanitized at the end of the competition.

4) Aprons:

- a. To enhance and promote our profession, and to avoid cross contamination, chefs should not be working with soiled aprons.
- b. Bib aprons can be used when cleaning proteins.
- c. Aprons should be changed:
 - iv. At the start of the competition
 - v. After working on proteins
 - vi. If they become heavily soiled at any stage
 - vii. Prior to service.

5) Gloves:

- c. Gloves do not give an automatic exemption to proper food handling techniques.
- d. Must be worn when handling hot or cold "Ready To Eat" food (RTE), which will be consumed by the jury/public.



- e. Gloves can be worn if working with dirty items, or items that stain, i.e.: beetroot.
- f. Hand injuries should be protected with a band aid/plaster, and covered with a glove.
- g. Changing the gloves is paramount to avoid cross contamination. It is not necessary to wear gloves during the mise en place or food items, unless the food items will not receive any heat treatment.
- h. Gloves need to be changed;
 - i. If you start to use other equipment after touching proteins
 - ii. Before starting service
 - iii. Regularly during service
 - iv. Before and after cleaning of dirty, or staining vegetables or marinades.

6) Rubbish:

- a. Small bins are permitted on the work bench.
- b. Neither the small table bins nor the main kitchen bin may overflow.
- c. Rubbish needs to be bagged, and removed each hour of the competition, upon closing of the bags.
- d. Bins should be empty at the start of service
- e. Cleaned and washed at the end of service
- f. Sinks must be used for washing and not to hold dirty pots and rubbish.
- g. Rubbish must be separated – i.e.: paper, plastic, organic, not reusable plastic boxes and containers, organic, and disposed of in designated containers.

7) Team Spacing:

Ideally the team should utilize all work areas of the kitchen to avoid close contact, which at time, may be un-avoidable.

8) Glass policy:

- a. Control - No glass items are permitted in any format into the competition kitchen. This may pertain to wine, vinegar, soy sauce, tomato paste, oils, drinking vessels, and any other products.
- b. Items must be decentered into appropriate non-breakable packaging prior to stepping into the competition kitchen.
- c. If sponsored items are in glass, these will remain on the central ingredient table(s), away from the competition kitchen. Competitors will retrieve products from this area in non-breakable containers. This rule will also apply to the Community Catering where Commercial products are permitted.



9) Food efficiency (left overs):

- a. In some circumstances, some food excess is unavoidable but this must be controlled. It is how you manage it that will be noted.
- b. If all your portions are not sold – there must be an accountability, tickets Vs Sales Vs food remaining.
- c. 5% excess is acceptable due to a number of kitchen factors, spillage, replacement, wrong table.
- d. Be mindful when planning menus to avoid waste factor, i.e.: “Pommes Parisiennes” or smaller scooped vegetables or fruits.
- e. Useable trimmings / excess of preparations, must be properly packaged and labelled with date and name of product as a minimum.
- f. Such left over food will be reviewed by the kitchen jury before it is taken away.
- g. Deduction for items thrown in the rubbish, or tried to be washed down a sink.

© This document has been created and designed by the Culinary and Competition Committee of Worldchefs, for the benefit of Worldchefs and its members; it is not to be reproduced without the consent of WorldChefs.