

**Indiana State Department of Health  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Date:** August 22, 2006

**To:** All Local Health Departments &  
Other Interested Parties

**From:** A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CFSP, Manager  
Food Protection Program

**Subject:** Hand Washing Signage Company

We have had several inquiries from the food industry and local health departments concerning a letter that is being disseminated by a company called the "Indiana Food Service Compliance Center", 6145 Crawfordsville Road #108, Speedway, IN 46224, telephone number 1-800-870-2669.

This company evidently is advising food businesses that there is a new law that has taken affect at the federal level that requires hand washing signage to be posted at all handwashing sinks in every food establishment. There evidently is threatening language in the letter that there are severe fines for failure to comply with this new requirement.

There is no such requirement in the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Rule 410 IAC 7-24, Retail Food Establishment Sanitation Requirements. There is a section in the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 2005 Model Food Code that signage be placed at handsinks, but this was not adopted into law into Indiana's retail food code. The company also cites a fictitious statement in the FDA Model Food Code about fines and penalties that does not exist. Furthermore, the FDA Model Food Code is not law and cannot be enforced as such. The FDA is also aware of this event as they have been receiving calls about if from around the country.

There is a provision for hand washing signage in the ISDH Rule 410 IAC 7-21, Wholesale Food Establishment Sanitation Requirements, but these facilities are under the jurisdiction of this program. Therefore, if you receive any inquiries about this, please let them know the facts and that it would be a voluntary act if they wished to purchase these signage products from this company or any other company.

I would encourage you to disseminate this memo and information to your regulated entities so there is clear understanding of the facts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office or your area field representative.