

Fact Sheet Why a business does not have a certificate

South Australian Food Safety Rating Scheme

Food Safety Rating Schemes are used as a way of informing consumers about the food safety practices of food service businesses such as hotels, restaurants, take aways and cafés. The Star Rating is calculated using the results of routine food safety inspections undertaken by local council Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).

The South Australian Food Safety Rating Scheme will be rolled out state wide to any local council that wishes to participate, early in 2016. It will target only certain food service businesses.

There are a range of reasons why some businesses will not be displaying a certificate, including:

The Council area is not part of the pilot.

This Scheme is voluntary for councils to participate in. All councils have been invited to participate and as of December, 2015, 13 councils have registered to take part. Additional councils may join the Scheme at any point after they have undergone appropriate training.

A full list of participated councils can be found on the website link below.

Food service businesses in other council areas will not be rated at their routine inspections, and therefore won't be issued a Star Rating certificate.

The business is not being targeted during the pilot period. Only food service businesses such as hotels, restaurants, cafés and take aways are being rated at their routine inspections during the pilot. Businesses that only handle pre-packaged foods or do not sell directly to the public are not rated and will not be issued a certificate irrespective of their inspection outcome.

The business has not yet been inspected by the council. All food businesses are inspected by their local council at a frequency determined by the type of food and food processes being used and how well the business is complying with food safety requirements. These routine inspections occur on a rolling basis and if a business has recently been inspected, prior to joining the Scheme, then it may not be due to have a further routine inspection for several

months.

The business has chosen not to display their certificate. The state wide Scheme is completely voluntary and the business can choose *If* and *Where* to display their Star Rating certificate.

The business has been temporarily removed from the Scheme. The aim of the Food Safety Rating Scheme is to provide a consumer facing interpretation of the food safety practices of the business at the time of their routine inspection. In some circumstances it is not possible for a local Environmental Health Officer to fully assess some food processes. In these situations it has been decided to not issue a certificate until the process can be observed at the next inspection.

The business is underperforming. The last reason why a business may not be displaying a certificate is that they did not perform well enough at their inspection to gain a Star Rating certificate and are required to undertake compliance activities.

Due to the voluntary nature of the Scheme, Local Councils or SA Health will not release a business score or Star Rating result other than to the business owner / manager.

If you would like more information about this Scheme please visit our website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/foodsafetyratingscheme or contact SA Health at foodpolicyprograms@sa.gov.au, call (08) 8226 7100 or contact your local council environmental health team.