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## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH County of Riverside

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 157-22-DES

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

### SNEEZE GUARD SUPPLEMENT CONSTRUCTION PLAN APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR FOOD FACILITIES

This Guidance Document is to establish the minimum criteria for protecting food displayed at buffets, salad bars, sushi bars, and similar food service operations. This includes utensils, food preparation surfaces, food preparation equipment and bar stemware that is located adjacent to customer accessible areas. Displays of unpackaged food or utensils shall be shielded by an approved sneeze guard or be dispensed from approved self-service dispensers.

#### General Requirements

- The design and construction of sneeze guards shall be based on **NSF/ANSI Standard-2**. Plan submittal is required for approval. Elevations must be drawn to scale showing required clearances and designed to minimize the degree of customer handling and exposure including overhead protection.
- All equipment shall be listed to NSF Sanitation Standards. Detailed information on temperature control and disposal of condensate waste must be provided.
- Sneeze guards must be constructed of easily cleanable, non-toxic materials that withstand normal wear. Food shield guard must conform to **NSF/ANSI 51** and edges must be protected against chipping.
- Customer self service areas must have approved wall, floor and ceiling finishes. Self-service counters must have legs, casters or an integral cove base (minimum of a 3/8-inch radius).
- Guards shall be mounted to intercept a direct line between the customer's mouth and the food display area on **all sides of the display**. The vertical distance from the **Average Customer's Mouth Zone** to the floor is **54 to 68 inches**. The vertical height from the bottom edge of the sneeze guard to the floor level shall be a maximum of 52-inches.
- The height of the **Average Customer's Mouth Zone** must be revised for facilities, such as schools, where the average patron may be shorter to provide adequate protection.
- Side shields are required on all sneeze guards for food display areas and shall be a **minimum of 18-inches long** measured from front to back. The gap between the side shield and countertop shall be a **maximum of 1 ½ inch**. Side shields are not required when there is an adjacent wall that is within 3-inches and the full height of the sneeze guard.
- The maximum open space between adjacent, parallel food shields panels shall **be 2-inches**, not including the post and frame members.

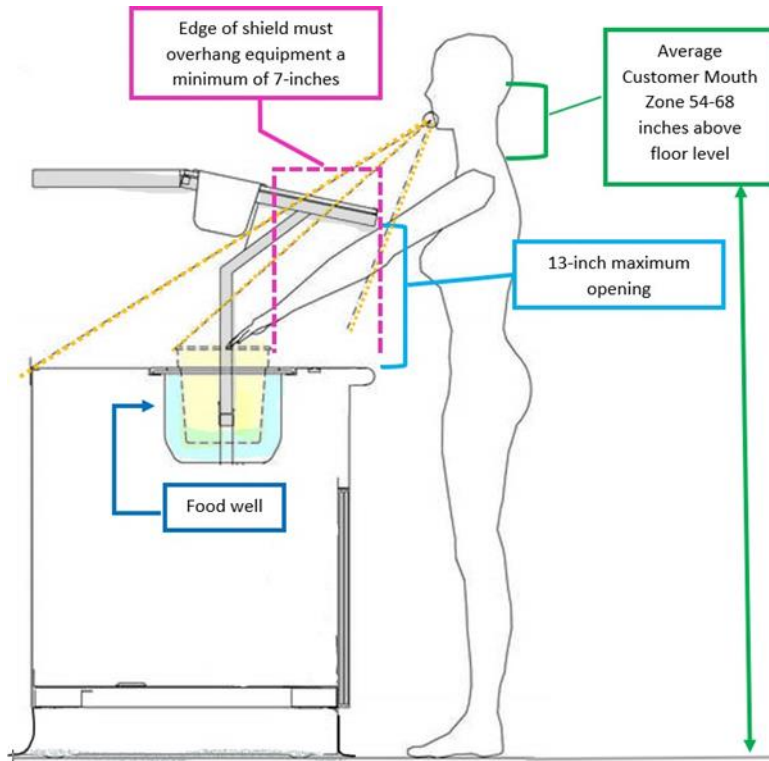
\*The following examples show possible sneeze guard placement and required clearances.

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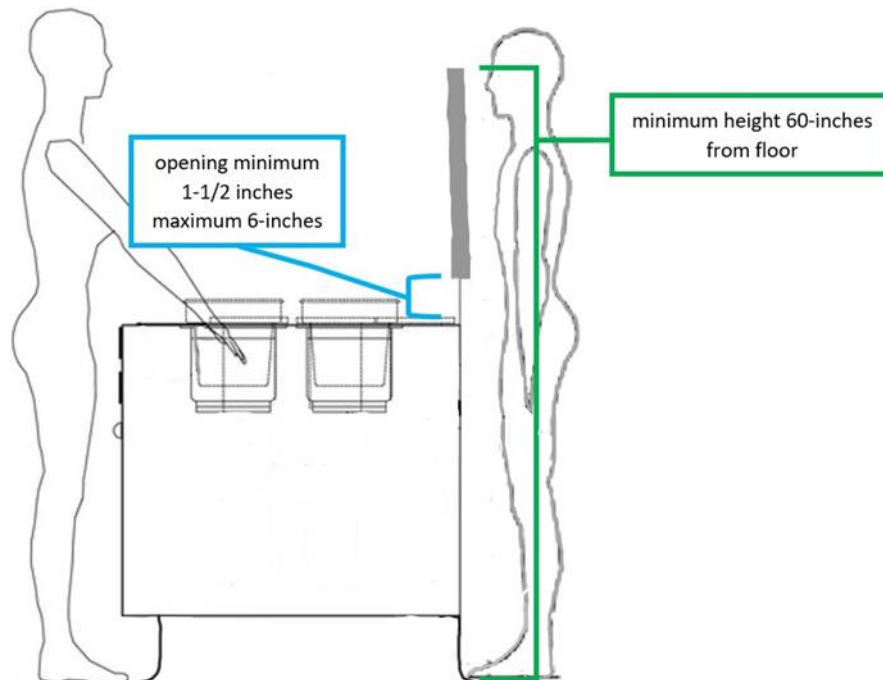
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## Customer Self Service Displays Figure 1



## Buffet Style Displays Served by Employees Figure 2



**Stemware Displayed in Bars Over Customer Area Figure 3**

