



Food Transportation Enforcement



The California Department of Public Health, Food and Drug Branch recently initiated a new food safety program called **Food Transportation Enforcement (FTE)**. The purpose of the FTE program is to ensure that food is transported within California under safe and sanitary conditions, in accordance with California law. California Health and Safety Code section 110140 provides that any authorized agent of the Department may enter and inspect any vehicle, container, facility, or place where any food is suspected of being held, and review any record that has a bearing on whether the food is adulterated, misbranded, or falsely advertised.

FTE includes inspection of all manner of conveyances used to transport food (trucks, tractor-trailers, shipping containers, rail cars, etc.). The inspections will occur statewide at vehicle inspection stations, agricultural inspection stations, ports, food storage/distribution facilities, points of retail distribution, and other locations within California where food transportation vehicles can be found. FTE will include inspection of large-scale, medium-scale, and small-scale food transportation vehicles.

Inspection of vehicles focuses on the following food transportation conditions or practices:



- Temperature control for potentially hazardous foods
- Sanitation
- Potential for cross-contamination from toxic chemicals
- Pest infestation/activity

Relevant food transportation documents (bill of lading, invoices, delivery tickets, temperature logs, etc.) are reviewed to identify responsible parties and ensure food safety.

During the initial stages of the FTE program, the primary emphasis will be on educating drivers and distributors about safe food transportation practices. However, if egregious conditions are observed during the education phase, enforcement action will be taken to protect public health.

Enforcement action may include, but is not limited to: embargo of adulterated food; seizure of the violative products, issuance of a Notice of Violation and/or Notice to Appear; assessment of a civil penalty; and/or referral of the matter to a prosecuting attorney for civil and/or criminal prosecution.

We strongly encourage safe handling of food during all stages of storage, distribution, and transportation. If you would like to learn more about the FTE program, please contact Rod Vienna at (916) 440-7975.