



Cochise County Environmental Health

Parasite Destruction Letter Requirement

General

Some species of fish carry parasites which may be harmful to humans if eaten. Freezing is a method of killing these parasites before serving the fish to the consumer. If your establishment serves raw or undercooked fish (i.e. sushi), you must provide proof that the fish has been properly frozen for parasite destruction according to the FDA Food Code.

Parasitic Destruction Letter

When the establishment purchases fish (intended to be consumed raw or undercooked) from an approved supplier, a letter must be provided which states that the fish provided by the supplier is frozen for parasite destruction according to the Food Code. This letter is commonly referred to as a **Letter of Guarantee of Parasitic Destruction**. The following information must be provided in the Letter of Guarantee of Parasitic Destruction:

1. Name, address and contact information of the approved supplier.
2. All species of fish that are frozen for parasite destruction and provided to the establishment.
3. Exact temperature and time to which the fish have been frozen.

Cochise County Environmental Health must review the Letter of Guarantee of Parasitic Destruction during the restaurant inspection process.

Exemptions:

There are some species of fish which are exempted from the parasite destruction requirement.

- Tuna of the species *Thunnus alalunga*, *Thunnus albacares* (Yellowfin tuna), *Thunnus atlanticus*, *Thunnus maccoyii* (Bluefin tuna, Southern), *Thunnus obesus* (Bigeye tuna), or *Thunnus thynnus* (Bluefin tuna, Northern)
- Aquacultured fish, such as salmon, that:
 - If raised in open water, are raised in net pens, or
 - Are raised in land-based operations such as ponds or tanks, and
 - Are fed formulated feed, such as pellets, that contains no live parasites infective to the aquacultured fish
 - A written statement from the supplier or aquaculturist stating that fish were raised and fed as specified above shall be required.

Record Keeping

Please contact your approved supplier to obtain the required Letter of Guarantee of Parasitic Destruction. This documentation must be kept at the food establishment for review during your routine inspection.

If you change your approved supplier or species of fish used for sushi, you must provide a new letter of Guarantee of Parasitic Destruction from the supplier.