



## Integrating Program Elements to Improve Compliance in the Retail Food Program

Our goal is to improve the sanitary condition of all retail food establishments, reduce food-borne illness outbreaks, and control the spread of food-borne disease from retail food establishments by integrating the historically distinct program strategies of:

- Risk based inspection frequency methodology;
- Compliance strategies, and;
- Modified enforcement requirements.

This approach aligns with current and ongoing local public health agencies (LPHA) strategies of continual quality improvement, community health assessments and program/agency accreditation, while also meeting the performance requirements of HB1401.

### Risk Based Methodology:

Utilizing an approved methodology allows us to appropriately assess the risk and associated inspection frequency of a facility. This allows an agency to focus limited resources to the highest risk facilities and apply any necessary compliance strategies/assistance to facilities that present the greatest risk.

### New Ratings/Risk Communication Methodology:

The rating system was developed to provide a uniform methodology for the thorough analysis of inspection results and the overall performance of retail food establishments (RFE). This system would be utilized by LPHAs to communicate inspection findings and the associated risk to the public and the facility operators, while also establishing the criteria of when additional inspections and compliance activities are necessary.

### New Enforcement Protocol:

The current enforcement protocol contained in C.R.S., §25-4-1611(2) focuses resources to individual violations versus the overall compliance status of an establishment and has proven to be ineffective. A modified protocol would:

- Look at the facility's overall compliance versus individual violations;
- Be based on food risk factors and the prevalence of those non-compliance conditions observed during a comprehensive inspection;
- Aligns with the established risk communication methodology;
- Provides a process to address issues of significant non-compliance in a timely manner;
- Stresses compliance assistance, outreach and sustained compliance;
- Provides due process for the industry, and;
- Does not incentivize fines or penalties.

