TO: Joint Committee on Food Equipment
FROM: Michael Perez, Chair of the Joint Committee
DATE: September 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Proposed revision to NSF/ANSI 4 – Commercial Cooking, Rethermalization, and Powered Hot Food Holding and Transport Equipment (4i25r3)

Revision 3 of NSF/ANSI 4, issue 25 is being forwarded to the Joint Committee for consideration. Please review the proposal and submit your ballot by October 19, 2020 via the NSF Online Workspace <www.standards.nsf.org>.

When adding comments, please identify the section number/name for your comment and add all comments under one comment number where possible. If you need additional space, please upload a word or pdf version of your comments online via the browse function.

Purpose

The purpose of this ballot is to affirm the proposed revised language for sections 6.1.2.5, 6.2.2.4 and 6.7.2.4 regarding exemptions to performance testing of food warming equipment in NSF/ANSI 4.

Background

In issue paper FE-2016-04, the issue proponent notes that the generic term food warming equipment is used to describe a variety of equipment (e.g. strip heaters, heated bases, heat lamps, carving stations, etc.) that are not intended for long term holding of potentially hazardous foods. Such equipment is typically subjected to performance testing in sections 6.1 (enclosed hot food holding equipment and hot food transport cabinet), 6.2 (open top hot food holding equipment) and/or 6.7 (open heated merchandisers).

This issue paper was received in May 2016 and referred to the Hot Food Equipment Task Group (TG). During its April 9, 2019 meeting and following discussion, the TG revised the language suggested in the issue paper and followed up with a straw ballot. The revision 1 straw ballot received a unanimous affirmative vote with no further comments, then presented to the JCFE where it was also unanimously approved.

When revision 1 was balloted by the CPHC, it received one negative vote with comment. The commenter suggests that the concept of testing is a separate point from the visibility of the label on the equipment, the exemption from testing should be made clearly and unambiguously by stating it in a separate sentence. For comparison, both revision 1 and revision 2 versions follow:

**Revision 1 language:** Food warming equipment intended solely for the display of foods that are not potentially hazardous shall have a permanently attached label that states: “Not for the storage or display of potentially hazardous foods.” The label shall be clearly visible to the user after installation of the equipment and the testing in Sections 6.1, 6.2, and/or 6.7 does not apply.
**Revision 2 language:** Food warming equipment intended solely for the display of foods that are not potentially hazardous shall have a permanently attached label that states: “Not for the storage or display of potentially hazardous foods.” The label shall be clearly visible to the user after installation of the equipment. The testing in Sections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.7 does not apply to food warming equipment intended solely for the display of foods that do not require temperature control for safety.

This comment was straightforward and sent back to the JC as revision 2 which was unanimously and positively received however there were two affirmative comments suggested which were sent to the Task Group for discussion. The TG met on August 11, 2020, made further adjustments suggested and motioned this language to be sent to the JC as an approval ballot.

This revision 3 ballot represents the proposed language and is presented here for your consideration.

If you have any questions about the technical content of the ballot, you may contact me in care of:

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c/o Allan Rose  
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for Food Equipment —

Commercial Cooking, Rethermalization, and Powered Hot Food Holding and Transport Equipment

5   Design and construction

5.48   Food warming equipment

Food warming equipment intended solely for the display of foods that are not potentially hazardous shall have a permanently attached label that states:

*Not for the storage or display of potentially hazardous foods.*

The label shall be clearly visible to the user after installation of the equipment.

6   Performance

6.1.2.5   This test does not apply to food warming equipment intended solely for the display of foods that do not require temperature control for safety as detailed in 5.48.

6.2.2.4   This test does not apply to food warming equipment intended solely for the display of foods that do not require temperature control for safety as detailed in 5.48.

6.7.2.4   This test does not apply to food warming equipment intended solely for the display of foods that do not require temperature control for safety as detailed in 5.48.

*Rationale:* The intention behind the recently added 5.48, Food warming equipment, is for equipment intended for holding non-potentially hazardous foods where the name of the product alone was not sufficient to convey this intention (e.g., food warmer instead of popcorn warmer, pretzel warmer, etc.), then a marking could be applied to instruct the user that the appliance is “Not for the storage or display of potentially hazardous foods.” The proposed revision further clarifies that food warming equipment is exempt from performance testing that would otherwise be required by 6.1, 6.2, and/or 6.7.