NSF/ANSI Standard for Food Equipment —

Glossary of Food Equipment Terminology

3.155 potentially hazardous food: 3.XXX time/temperature control for safety (TCS) food (formerly known as “potentially hazardous food”)

(1) A food that is natural or synthetic and requires temperature control because it is in a form capable of supporting the following: rapid and progressive growth of infectious or toxigenic microorganisms; growth and toxin production of Clostridium botulinum; or, in raw shell eggs, the growth of Salmonella enteritidis; (1) A food that requires time/temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation;

(2) Potentially hazardous food Time/temperature control for safety food includes:
— animal food (a food of animal origin) that is raw or heat-treated;
— food of plant origin that is heat-treated or consists of raw seed sprouts;
— cut melons;
— cut leafy greens;
— cut tomatoes or mixtures of cut tomatoes that are not modified in a way so that they are unable to support pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation; and
— garlic and oil garlic-in-oil mixtures that are not acidified or otherwise modified at a food processing plant in a way that results in mixtures that do not support growth as specified above pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation

(3) Potentially hazardous food Time/temperature control for safety food does not include:
— an air-cooled hard-boiled egg with shell intact, or a shell egg that is not hard-boiled but has been treated to destroy all viable salmonellae; or
— a food having a water activity (a ) value of 0.85 or less less than 0.88; or
— a food with a pH of 4.6 or less less than 4.2; or
— a food, in an unopened hermetically sealed container, that is commercially processed to achieve and maintain commercial sterility under conditions of nonrefrigerated storage and distribution; or
— a food for which laboratory evidence demonstrates that rapid and progressive growth of infectious

or toxigenic microorganisms or the growth of S. enteritidis in eggs or C. botulinum cannot occur, as defined previously in this section, and that may contain a preservative, other barrier to the growth of microorganisms, or a combination of barriers that inhibit the growth of microorganisms; or
— a food that does not support the growth of microorganisms as specified under part (1) of this definition even though the food may contain an infectious or toxigenic microorganism or chemical or physical contaminant at a sufficient level to cause illness.

NOTE – cut leafy greens means fresh leafy greens whose leaves have been cut, shredded, sliced, chopped, or torn. Examples include: iceberg lettuce, romaine lettuce, leaf lettuce, butter lettuce, baby leaf lettuce (i.e., immature lettuce or leafy greens), escarole, endive, spring mix, spinach, cabbage, kale, arugula and chard. Does not include: Herbs such as cilantro or parsley or whole heads of lettuce or other raw agricultural commodities. ‘Cut’ does not include removing and discarding exterior leaves, which is a common practice for display in retail food establishments.

**Rationale:** Proposed language is based on definition for “cut leafy greens” within the U.S. FDA Food Code and Fact Sheet from Oregon Department of Agriculture.¹

3.155 potentially hazardous food: See time/temperature control for safety (TCS) food