

This document is the property of NSF International (NSF) and is for NSF Committee purpose(s) only. Unless given prior approval from NSF, it **shall not** be reproduced, circulated, or quoted, in whole or in part, outside of NSF.

Prepared by: Standard 2 Task Group on Food Shields

The purpose of this annex is to provide a flexible guideline for determining when end shields covered in section 5.35.1.6 may be omitted. This annex is applicable to food shields:

- Intended to be hard mounted (non-portable) to a serving or buffet counter; and
- Configured and positioned as they will be installed on the serving or buffet counter.

In the execution of its assignment to update section 5.35 of NSF/ANSI Standard 2 – 2009 the task group on food shields (TG) found that many food shield installations are a series of food shields (FS) placed side-by-side on a serving or buffet counter. These FS may all be of similar type or may be a series of different types of FS (i.e. self-service, cafeteria, multiple tier, etc.). A series of FS installed on a serving or buffet counter may be categorized in two ways:

- Common post
- Individual post

In a common post FS, a post or set of posts are shared by the FS on both sides of the post. Food shields that include common posts may be considered to be a single food shield assembly even if each section is a different type. In a common post FS there is no separation between FS sections other than open spaces at post and framing members.

An individual post FS is equipped with a post or set of posts at each end. Individual post FS may be installed close together with little separation, or may be widely spaced.

Section 5.35.1.6 requires that an end shield (ES) be provided at each end of a food shield. On a common post FS, one ES at each end of the FS assembly is required. For example, a serving or buffet counter with a 6-section common post FS assembly would need only two ES.

On individual post FS, a pair of ES is required for each FS. On a buffet or serving counter with six individual post FS a total of twelve ES would be required. Requiring an ES at both ends of every FS unnecessarily clutters a serving or buffet counter and may interfere with the operation of the counter.

Second, when individual post food shields are installed in close proximity, the space between the two adjacent end shields may be too small to permit thorough cleaning of the ES panels.

In such instances, the TG established guidelines under which some ES may be omitted. On buffet or serving counters, some ES may be omitted provided that at least one of the following criteria is met:

1. The open space in any plane between adjacent food shield panels does not exceed 2 in (51 mm); or
2. The open space between adjacent food shield posts does not exceed 2 in (51 mm); or
3. The open space between a post and an adjacent food shield panel does not exceed 2 in (51 mm).

When evaluating which ES, if any, may be omitted, some common sense is necessary. On curved counters or counters with turns, offsets, angled sections, additional ES may be needed even if one of the above conditions has been met. On such counters, odd-shaped or pie-shaped openings between FS or angled FS panels may require intermediate ES panels in order to provide adequate protection for unpackaged food.

If the level of protection without an end shield is questionable, do not omit the end shield.

The Standard 2 Task Group on Food Shields recommends that manufacturers include this End Shield Requirements Criteria Annex with installation instructions and/or shop drawings.