

## GENERAL CIRCULAR

This general circular contains important information from the NSW Food Authority for all hospitals with milk/formula rooms.

Please take the time to read this information.

If you have any queries, please contact

NSW Food Authority Helpline on 1300 552 406.

## General Circular 01/2013

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**To:** All NSW hospitals  
**Subject:** Revised audit arrangements for hospitals with milk/formula rooms

### Issue

Recognition of existing infection control arrangements for formula and milk rooms

### Background

In 2009 the NSW Food Authority commenced auditing of hospital food safety programs to monitor compliance with Standard 3.3.1 of the Food Standards Code. The scope of these programs also included the preparation of infant formula and storage of expressed breast milk in the milk/formula rooms of maternity wards in public and private hospitals as this was referenced within 3.3.1.

A review of the scope of the current audit program has found that these rooms are supervised by clinical nursing staff, and as these areas operate independently of the kitchen/catering food safety program and general food handling operations this has made auditing of these areas problematic for all parties concerned. Discussions with NSW Health and a number of private hospitals have confirmed management oversight of milk/formula rooms is not within the food service area of responsibility but under the hospital clinical streams in conjunction with each facility's Infection Control Department.

A review of current NSW Health policies has found that the mandatory infection control requirements currently at hospitals for these areas provide an equivalent outcome to the requirements of the Food Standards Code. Discussions with NSW Health have confirmed that these policies are audited internally by the relevant Infection Control Departments and are also assessed by external accreditation agencies.

### Changes to the current audit program

As NSW Health policies provide an equivalent outcome to the food safety requirements for formula and milk rooms under the Food Standards Code, the NSW Food Authority will no longer include milk/formula rooms within the scope of its regulatory audits. Hospitals need to ensure that infection control staff and applicable areas within each hospital are made aware of this revised arrangement. Any references to milk/formula rooms in the hospital's food safety program can be removed.

### Enquiries

Please direct any enquiries to:

Contact	Phone	Fax
<b>NSW Food Authority Consumer &amp; Industry Helpline</b> <a href="mailto:contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au">contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au">www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au</a>	1300 552 406	02 9741 4888



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