



Adoption of the Letter Grading System

The City of Universal City Health Department implements the Texas Food Establishment Rules' (TFER) demerit system in scoring health inspections of food establishments. Based on this system, the food safety practices of an establishment are deemed to be in full compliance if it receives a grade of zero (0) demerits in an inspection. To the general public, this may be confusing being that a 100 grade point scale is a system that is universally understandable. This is why the UC Health Department will begin to adopt the letter grading system to complement the demerit system. The inspection will continue to be based on the TFER and will not replace the demerit system. The letter grade equivalent to the demerits received by an establishment will be included on the upper right hand corner of the health inspection report. The grading scale will be as follows:

A for 0-9 demerits

B for 10-19 demerits

C for 20 demerits or higher

Establishments with imminent health hazards such as no water, sewage, electrical, gross and unsanitary conditions and/or infestations will be subject for closure, as is the current protocol.

The goals of adopting the letter grading system are:

- To improve communication about restaurant food safety practices with the public.
- To promote greater compliance with food safety rules by food establishment staff and ultimately reduce food borne illnesses.

So as not to defeat the purpose of this new system, the Inspection Reports are required to be posted in full view of incoming customers (without any obstructions) or in a location within the facility directed by the Health Official.

To better equip food establishments, handouts have been made available at www.UCTX.Gov/Health on "How to Get an 'A'" and other information on food safety guidelines.

Establishments receiving "A" will be recognized in the Universal City Newsletter which is published every other month.

Questions, suggestions and concerns may be submitted to: health@uctx.gov.

Thank you continued cooperation.