

# Comments from the Inspector on Approved Sources

Food Safety Team, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine

Section 3-201.11 of the Food Code, Compliance with Food Law, states that food shall be obtained from approved sources that comply with AFI 48-116, Food Safety Program. This instruction indicates that food companies that supply certain types of foods must be listed in an approved source directory. As a general rule, these foods that must be listed are: meats, poultry, fish, shellfish, dairy products, eggs, certain bakery items, ice, and water. Many of these items will have official USDA or other federal inspection stamps on the containers which tell you they are from an approved source. Talk to your local public health office for help in determining other types of approved sources.

What is important about approved sources? These sources have been inspected to ensure they process/prepare foods in a sanitary manner.

Does an approved source food mean that I don't have to worry about the safety of that food? NO. Approved sources are a way to help minimize the risk of contamination with disease causing microorganisms. However, an approved source does not ensure the food "disease-free" and you still have to handle it properly in your facility.

Note: Air Force Public Health offices are often not involved with receipt inspections of foods as they were in the past. So you probably won't find the old "DoD Inspection Stamp" indicating that a public health person has inspected the food prior to arrival at your facility. Therefore, if you have any questions about approved sources or other concerns about the safety of foods as you receive them, call your local public health office.

One last note. Foods prepared in a private home are not considered to be from an approved source, and they must not be used or offered for sale in a retail food establishment. For more information, contact your base Public Health office at 6-1225. Or contact the Food Safety Team at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (Brooks AFB, TX), at (210) 536-2058 -DSN 240-2058- or E-mail a message to [jose.diaz@mirage.brooks.af.mil](mailto:jose.diaz@mirage.brooks.af.mil)