



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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January 3, 2020

POSITION STATEMENT: Storage of Hot Food Products in Thermos-like Containers Brought from Home.

PURSUANT TO: Rules Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Centers
15A NCAC 18A .2800

SOURCE: Children's Environmental Health

QUESTION/ISSUE:

How should hot potentially hazardous foods in Thermos-like containers brought from home be stored?

DISCUSSION AND RATIONALE:

Administrative Rule 15A NCAC 18A .2804(f) requires potentially hazardous foods brought from home to be refrigerated at 45°F (7°C) or below. Storing Thermos-like containers of hot food in a refrigerator or opening them to monitor the temperature of potentially hazardous food brought from the child's home could possibly cool the food to an unsafe temperature.

RESPONSE/INTERPRETATION:

Hot potentially hazardous foods brought from home in Thermos-like containers should not be stored in a refrigerator. It is recommended that parents provide the child care center with written permission allowing hot potentially hazardous food stored in Thermos-like containers to be stored without refrigeration or food temperature monitoring. Thermos-like containers should be stored as per Administrative Rule 15A NCAC 18A .2806(f), which states that all food shall be stored in a manner to protect it from dust, rodents, insects, drip, splash and other contamination.

REFERENCES:

Rules Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Centers 15A NCAC 18A .2800

NOTE: Position statements are policy documents to clarify how to interpret or enforce a law or rule. They are not enforceable on their own but are intended to promote uniform interpretation and enforcement of the underlying law or rule.

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