

137F.3 Authority to enforce.

1. The director shall regulate, license, and inspect food establishments and food processing plants and enforce this chapter pursuant to rules adopted by the department in accordance with chapter 17A. Municipal corporations shall not regulate, license, inspect, or collect license fees from food establishments and food processing plants, except as provided in this section.

2. A municipal corporation may enter into an agreement with the director to provide that the municipal corporation shall license, inspect, and otherwise enforce this chapter within its jurisdiction. The director may enter into the agreement if the director finds that the municipal corporation has adequate resources to perform the required functions. A municipal corporation may only enter into an agreement to enforce the rules setting minimum standards to protect consumers from foodborne illness adopted pursuant to section 137F.2 if it also agrees to enforce the Iowa hotel sanitation code pursuant to section 137C.6. However, the department shall license and inspect all food processing plants which manufacture, package, or label food products. A municipal corporation may license and inspect, as authorized by this section, food processing plants whose operations are limited to the storage of food products.

3. If the director enters into an agreement with a municipal corporation as provided by this section, the director shall provide that the inspection practices of a municipal corporation are spot-checked on a regular basis.

4. A municipal corporation that is responsible for enforcing this chapter within its jurisdiction pursuant to an agreement shall make an annual report to the director providing the following information:

a. The total number of licenses granted or renewed by the municipal corporation under this chapter during the year.

b. The number of licenses granted or renewed by the municipal corporation under this chapter during the year in each of the following categories:

(1) Food establishments.

(2) Food processing plants.

(3) Mobile food units and pushcarts.

(4) Temporary food establishments.

(5) Vending machines.

c. The amount of money collected in license fees during the year.

d. The amount expended to perform the functions required under the agreement, submitted on a form prescribed by the department.

e. Other information the director requests.

5. The director shall monitor municipal corporations which have entered into an agreement pursuant to this section to determine if they are enforcing this chapter within their respective jurisdictions. If the director determines that this chapter is not enforced by a municipal corporation, the director may rescind the agreement after reasonable notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If the agreement is rescinded, the director shall assume responsibility for enforcement in the jurisdiction involved.

6. The inspection staff of a municipal corporation that has entered into an agreement with the director to enforce this chapter shall be required by the department to apply the current rules setting minimum standards to protect consumers from foodborne illness adopted pursuant to section 137F.2 to ensure consistency in application of the rules. A municipal corporation's failure to comply may result in the department rescinding the agreement with the municipal corporation, after reasonable notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

98 Acts, ch 1162, §8, 30; 2007 Acts, ch 215, §213