

**CHAPTER 21
SANITATION**

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§ 21101. Sanitary Permit.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or open for business:

- (a) any establishment or activity as defined in Chapter 23 or Chapter 24;
- (b) any institutional facility as defined in Chapter 25;
- (c) any hotel as defined in Chapter 26;
- (d) any cosmetic establishment as defined in Chapter 27;
- (e) any public laundry or dry-cleaning establishment as defined in Chapter 28;
- (f) any public swimming as defined in Chapter 29; or

(g) any mortuary as defined in Chapter 30, without a valid sanitary permit for such establishment or activity (permit) issued by the Director. Such permit shall be displayed at all times in a conspicuous place in the premises for public view. Only persons who comply with the pertinent provisions of this Part shall be entitled to receive and retain such permit.

This Chapter shall not apply to the operation of any establishment, including any market, wayside stand, or roadside stand used exclusively for the sale of (1) fresh, unprocessed fruits, vegetables, and nuts; (2) eggs; (3) live poultry; (4) live pigs; (5) other live animals, except dogs and cats and other such animals as stipulated by the Director, by the original producer thereof in his own property; or (6) liquor or canned or bottled soft drinks.

SOURCE: GC 9510. Amended by P.L. 37-087:2 (April 3, 2024).

§ 21102. Regulations.

(a) The Director shall promulgate regulations as required relative to the physical structure required for sanitary operations of:

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- (1) establishments as defined in Chapter 23 or Chapter 24;
- (2) institutional facilities as defined in Chapter 25;
- (3) hotels as defined in Chapter 26;
- (4) cosmetic establishments as defined in Chapter 27;
- (5) laundry and dry-cleaning establishments as defined in Chapter 28;
- (6) public swimming pools as defined in Chapter 29; and
- (7) mortuaries as defined in Chapter 30.

(b) The regulations adopted by the Director shall include requirements for sanitation, plumbing, or drainage.

(c) Plans and specifications shall be submitted to the Director in accordance with the requirements established in regulations, which shall include at least the following:

- (1) the total area to be used for the regulated establishment;
- (2) the rooms in which the regulated activities are to be conducted;
- (3) the location, number and types of plumbing fixtures including all water supply facility and toilet rooms; and
- (4) [the] general layout of fixtures and other equipment.

(d) No person shall construct, reconstruct or alter any regulated establishment without first obtaining a sanitary permit from the Department. To apply for a permit, the applicant must submit complete, detailed plans of the regulated establishment, site plans, and any other information as required by the Director. Construction, reconstruction or alteration shall not be started until the plans for the establishment are approved by the Director or his/her designee. The requirements of this Subsection are in addition to the building permit program administered by the Department of Public Works. Permit issuance and approval by the Director of Public Health and Social Services does not relieve the applicant from the obligation and responsibility of obtaining all necessary and required Public Works building permits.

(e) Before any person shall commence to operate or open for business any establishment or activity listed in Subsection (a) of this Section, he/she shall notify the Director in writing of his/her intent to operate. The Director or his/her designee shall review the plans and specifications and inspect the location to determine whether plans have been in compliance with the regulations promulgated and other provisions of this Part.

(f) If the application is for a temporary food service establishment, then it shall also include the inclusive dates of the proposed operation which shall not exceed six (6) months.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.1. Amended by P.L. 37-087:3 (April 3, 2024).

§ 21103. Form, Duration and Charges for Permit and Annual Renewal.

(a) The form of the permit shall be prescribed by the Director. All permits applicable thereto shall be issued on an annual basis and, regardless of when issued, shall expire one (1) year after the date for which issued or renewed.

(b) All permits applicable thereto which are already in existence prior to the enactment of this law shall be renewed on the month consistent with the month they originally attained their permit. The Director shall have up to twelve (12) months from the enactment of this law to amend the renewal dates of these sanitary permits to conform with the renewal date outlined in the Section.

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(c) Sanitary permits for the temporary workforce housing category, as defined in Chapter 26A of this Title, shall adhere to the permit renewal schedule pursuant to 10 GCA § 26A104.

(d) The fee for the sanitary permit shall be determined by the Director by regulation and shall be collected by him or his designee. The falsification of an application for a sanitary permit may result in the suspension or revocation of the sanitary permit in accordance with 10 GCA § 21109.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or regulation, including but not limited to Title 26, Division 1, Chapter 4 of the Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, no fee shall be required for a sanitary permit issued pursuant to this Chapter for a temporary food service establishment operated by a student organization school group, or parent-teacher organization for fundraising purposes that support students. For purposes of this subsection:

(1) “Student organization, school group, or parent teacher organization,” means any group affiliated with a public or private elementary, secondary, or postsecondary school on Guam, including but not limited to clubs, sports teams, class councils, parent-teacher organizations (PTOs), parent-teacher-student associations (PTSA’s), or similar parent-school affiliated organizations;

(2) The student organization, school group, or parent-teacher organization shall comply with all inspection and sanitation standards under 10 GCA Chapter 21; and

(3) The applicant shall submit a certification from the school administrator verifying the fundraising purpose of each individual event. The school administrator may grant permissions to student organizations, school groups, or parent-teacher organizations on a case-by-case basis, maintaining records of such approvals and compliance verifications.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.2. Amended by P.L. 37-080:1 (Mar. 6, 2024). Subsection (e) added by P.L. 38-100:1 (Feb. 11, 2026).

2024 NOTE: Subsection/subitem designations added pursuant to the authority of 1 GCA § 1606.

§ 21104. Inspection.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director or his/her designee shall inspect an establishment or activity subject to this Chapter at a frequency based upon the policy adopted by him or her that takes into consideration its existing resources and the health risk the establishments pose to the public, such as the number and type of people served, potential for disease transmission and injuries, and history of non-compliance. The date of each inspection shall be noted on the permit. The person in charge shall upon request permit access to all parts of the establishment and shall permit examination and copying of any or all records and persons employed.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.3. Amended by P.L. 37-087:4 (April 3, 2024).

§ 21105. Posting of Report.

One (1) copy of the inspection report shall be posted by the Director in a conspicuous place on the premises designated by him. No person other than the Director shall remove, deface, destroy or conceal such report. The original of the report shall be retained by the Director.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.4.

§ 21106. Inspection Records; Demerit Values; Demerit Scores.

Whenever the Director makes an inspection, he shall record his findings on an inspection report form to the permit holder or operator. For each violation, a demerit value shall be assigned. Upon completion of an inspection, the Director shall total the demerit point values for all requirements in violation, such total becoming the demerit score for the establishment.

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SOURCE: GC § 9510.5.

§ 21107. Issuance of Notices.

Whenever the Director or his/her designee makes an inspection and discovers that any of the applicable law or rule has been violated, he/she shall notify the permit holder or operator of such violations by means of an inspection report form or other written notice. In such notification, the Director or his/her designee shall:

- (a) set forth the specific violations found, together with the demerit score of the establishment;
- (b) establish a specific and reasonable period of time for correction of the violations found, in accordance with the following provision:
 - (1) when the demerit score of the establishment is twenty (20) or less, all violations of one (1) to four (4) demerits must be corrected within a period of time not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days;
 - (2) when the demerit score of the establishment is more than twenty (20) but not more than forty (40), all items of one (1) to four (4) demerit points must be corrected within a period of time not to exceed fifteen (15) calendar days;
 - (3) when any six (6) demerit point item is cited, regardless of the final demerit score, such item must be corrected within a period of time not to exceed ten (10) calendar days;
 - (4) when the demerit score of the establishment is more than forty (40), the sanitary permit shall be immediately suspended; and
 - (5) in the case of temporary food service establishments, violations must be corrected within a specified period of time not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours. Failure to comply with such notice shall result in immediate suspension of the permit.
- (c) state that failure to comply with any notice issued in accordance with the provisions of any applicable laws, rules or regulations may result in immediate suspension of the permit or the establishment downgraded; and
- (d) state that an opportunity for appeal from any notice or inspection findings will be provided if a written request for a hearing is filed with the Director within the period of time established in the notice for corrections.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.6. Amended by P.L. 37-087:5 (April 3, 2024).

2024 NOTE: Section and subitem designations have been modified from past publications of the GCA, pursuant to the authority of 1 GCA § 1606.

§ 21108. Service of Notices.

Notices provided for under this Section shall be deemed to have been properly served when a copy of the inspection report form or other notice has been delivered personally to the permit holder or person in charge, or such notice has been sent by registered or certified mail return receipt requested to the last known address of the permit holder. A copy of such notice shall be filed with the records of the Director.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.7.

§ 21109. Suspension and Revocation of Permit.

(a) A permit may be suspended by the Director pursuant to § 21107(2)(d) or upon the violation by the holder or by a person in his employ or under his supervision or control of any of the provisions of this Part.

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(b) Suspension of a permit may be imposed without prior hearing in the discretion of the Director by giving written notice thereof to the holder, in which case, the holder shall have five (5) days within which to request a hearing. Suspension without prior hearing may be imposed for such time until the violation is corrected; or may be imposed as a penalty for repeated violations, in which case, it shall not exceed five (5) days; or may be imposed pending a hearing under Subsections (c) or (d) of this Section. When a hearing is requested following a suspension without prior hearing, it shall be discretionary with the Director as to whether the suspension shall be continued pending the hearing. Hearings requested following the suspension of a permit without prior hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Adjudication Law.

(c) Suspension of a permit may occur following a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Adjudication Law. Suspension may be imposed for such time until the violation is corrected or may be imposed as a penalty for repeated violation, in which case, it shall not exceed six (6) months. Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Adjudication Law.

(d) Revocation of a permit may occur following a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Adjudication Law.

(e) Following a hearing, a judicial review of the Director's decision may be held in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Adjudication Law. Pending final determination upon such judicial review, it shall be discretionary with the Court to stay the enforcement of the order of suspension or revocation upon the furnishing of adequate bond.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.8.

§ 21110. Reinstatement of Permit.

When the holder of a permit believes he has corrected a condition upon his premises or some other violation for which his permit has been suspended, he may make application to the Director for reinstatement of the permit. This application may be in the form of a letter. Upon the receipt of such an application, the Director shall make an inspection of the premises. If the findings of this inspection show that the violation has been corrected, the Director may, in his discretion, reinstate the permit, but shall reinstate the permit where suspension was imposed for such time until violations were corrected.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.9.

§ 21111. Revoked Permit May Not be Reinstated.

When a permit has been revoked, it no longer has any validity and may not be reinstated except upon order of a court.

SOURCE: GC 9510.10.

§ 21112. New Permit Barred for Six (6) Months.

No person whose permit has been revoked shall be eligible to obtain a new permit for a period of six (6) months.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.11.

§ 21113. Closing; Chief of Police.

The Director shall effect the closing of any establishment or activity whose permit has been suspended or revoked. Upon the request of the Director, the Chief of Police shall provide police personnel to enforce such closing.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.12.

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2024 NOTE: Past print publications included an annotation from the Compiler indicating that references to “Director of Public Safety” had been replaced with “Chief of Police” pursuant to P.L. 17-078:1 (Dec. 12, 1984). P.L. 17-078 had established the Guam Police Department and repealed GC § 5102, which established the Department of Public Safety.

§ 21114. Closure to Be Posted.

Whenever any establishment requiring a permit is closed by the Director, the Director shall post a notice, easily visible to the public, stating that said establishment is closed by order of the Director.

SOURCE: GC 9510.13.

§ 21115. Automatic Suspension of Alcoholic Beverage License and Business License.

Upon the suspension or revocation of a permit, the Director is to notify the Department of Revenue and Taxation of the name and location of the business.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.14. Amended by P.L. 37-087:6 (April 3, 2024).

§ 21116. Notification of Chief of Police.

The Director shall notify the Chief of Police of any suspension or revocation of a permit.

SOURCE: GC § 9510.15.

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§ 21117. Transfer Forbidden.

It shall be unlawful to transfer a permit to another person or to another location or to post it on or use it in any way in connection with any other premises than that for which it is issued.

NOTE: GC § 9510.16.
