

## Hard Crusted Breads

### Issue

Clarification of the protection required for hard-crustrated bread items such as baguettes and French-style breads.

### Background

State code requires that food service establishment owners protect food from potential or actual sources of contamination during transport, storage, preparation, cooking, display, and service by providing protection through effective measures. Most packaged, ready-to-eat foods are in sealed containers or wrappers that protect the food until opened by the consumer.

Traditionally, hard-crustrated breads are not packaged in sealed containers, but are loosely or minimally packaged to appeal to consumers and allow the desired transfer of air and moisture to maintain the bread's character.

### Interpretation

Hard-crustrated breads displayed for retail sale must be protected from contamination. Protection may be provided by product packaging or by display cases furnished with barriers to hand contact. **If packaged for consumer self-service, hard-crustrated breads must be completely covered by the bag.** The packaging may be open on one end as long as the wrapping fully covers the loaf. Containers for display of hard-crustrated breads must have access points no lower than thirty inches above the floor.

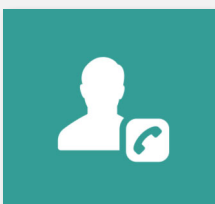
### Public Health Significance

During display, foods can be contaminated through indirect and direct contact. Most ready-to-eat foods displayed for retail sale are protected from these sources of contamination through cases, sneeze guards, utensil use, sealed packaging, and employee monitoring of the product.

Packaging of hard-crustrated breads in a full coverage wrapper should protect the bread from contamination while still allowing air and moisture exchange important for the bread's quality.

### References

[WAC 246-215-03351\(2\)](#) | [WAC 246-215-03363\(2\)](#) | [WAC 246-215-03369\(4\)](#)



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