

## Freezers in Retail Food Establishments

### Requirement

Freezers must meet the applicable construction and performance criteria in the Code. [WAC 246-215-04272](#) states that equipment certified by an ANSI-accredited certification program automatically complies with the Code's equipment construction standards. However, the Code does not require such equipment. Non-certified freezers (including some domestic models) can also be approved in some food establishments under some conditions if they meet certain construction and performance criteria.

### Criteria

To approve non-certified units, the Food Code requires freezers to:

- Keep foods frozen (03500).
- Be safe, durable, easily cleanable, corrosive-resistant, etc. (04100).
- Have smooth surfaces and joints, free of cracks, etc. (04204).
- Meet all other applicable standards in Part 4: Subparts A and B.

Other criteria to consider before approving a non-certified freezer include:

- Frequency of use (domestic models may not be designed to withstand frequent opening and closing).
- Inaccessibility to customers.
- History of satisfactory performance in an existing establishment.
- Capacity.

Examples of food establishments most likely to meet criteria that would allow for a non-certified freezer include:

- Bed and breakfast operations.
- Donated food distributing organizations.
- Preschools.
- Smaller seafood and meat markets.

### Failure to Perform

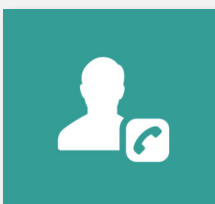
If an approved freezer fails to meet any of these criteria, it must be repaired or replaced.

### Public Health Significance

Freezers that are not easily cleanable may lead to cross contamination of foods by pathogens or allergens.

### WAC References

[WAC 246-215-03500](#) | [WAC 246-215-04100](#) | [WAC 246-215-04204](#) | [WAC 246-215 Part 4: Subparts A & B](#) | [Definitions: Equipment](#)



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