

COMMERCIAL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT BILLING MODIFICATION

1. What is a Commercial Food Establishment?

A Commercial Food Establishment or “CFE” is any facility that prepares, packages, serves and/or provides foods or beverages for sale or consumption on or off site, including but not limited to restaurants, food courts, food manufacturers, food packagers, grocery stores, hospitals, hotels, nursing homes, churches, schools, and correctional facilities.

2. Why are CFE’s regulated?

CFEs have a high potential to discharge fats, oils, and grease or “FOG” into the sanitary sewer system. This FOG can accumulate in the sewer system and cause blockages which may lead to sewer backups into home and businesses and the overflow of sewage into the environment.

3. What is the annual CFE fee and what does it cover?

The annual fee is currently \$108 for each CFE on a parcel but the fee is subject to an increase annually related to the Consumer Price Index. Non-profits and certain other CFEs are exempt from this fee. The CFE annual fee only partly offsets the County’s efforts to manage FOG. These efforts in part include regular inspections of CFEs to insure they comply with County pretreatment regulations, and the addition of bacteria and cleaners into the sewer system to abate FOG and prevent backups.

4. Why was the New Castle County Code changed to attach CFE annual fees to the sewer bill?

In the past, CFEs were billed manually through invoices separate from the sewer bill. The process of billing and collecting payment was very labor intensive and costly to our constituents. To streamline this process, the County is now attaching the CFE annual fee to the third quarterly sewer billing. This fee can now be passed through by the owner to the tenant.

5. What if I have further questions?

Please contact us at (302)-395-5555