

“A” for Food Safety

Through our grading system, Maricopa County Environmental Services Department provides at-a-glance indications of how food establishments perform during food safety inspections. This system is designed to grade food establishments in terms of food safety requirements and provide recognition to those who choose to participate.

How does It work?

The issuance of grade cards to food establishments is based on voluntary participation. The person in charge, who is present during the inspection, will be asked whether they would like to participate in the Grading System. This will be decided prior to each inspection. If an establishment does not participate in the Grading System, **Not Participating or NP** will appear on the inspection report, and the inspection will still occur. If an establishment does participate, a grade of **A, B, C, or D** will be determined at the conclusion of the inspection using the Grading System chart below. Participating establishments will then be provided with a grade card that can be posted in the establishment. The status of the establishment’s grade will also appear on the Restaurant Ratings page of the department’s website.

How can I determine the grade?

The Grading System chart can be used to determine grades earned for establishments that do not participate. Grades are determined by the number of Priority and Priority Foundation violations received at the time of inspection. Violation types are defined in general terms below.

"Priority items (P)" are directly related to foodborne illness. e.g., Improper handwashing procedures

"Priority foundation items (Pf)" are the building blocks which control for priority items. e.g., Lack of handwashing soap

	Grade	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D
Count of Violation(s)	Priority	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	2+	3+
	Priority Foundation	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	5	3	4	0	1	2	3+	0+

- Any **legal action** for a pattern of non-compliance or permit suspension results in a D.
- Partners enrolled in the **Cutting Edge Program** receive an A+ when an A is earned.

Scan the QR code or visit our web page for information about food safety standards

esd.maricopa.gov/5114/Food-Restaurants

