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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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DEC Extends Free Food Worker Card Program

More than 10,000 Alaska food workers now have cards

Juneau, AK--Food workers now have until the end of the year to get their Alaska food worker card at no cost. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is extending the free food worker card program until December 31, 2007. Every food worker outside of the Municipality of Anchorage must have this card to be in compliance with Alaska's food code.

The program phase-in has been overwhelmingly successful for the workers and for businesses that employ them. Since implementing the new program, more than 10,000 Alaskans have taken and passed the test.

"Princess requires anyone serving or handling food for our company to have food protection training. Between the online testing and the hands-on training, DEC's program helps to ensure workers get the training needed to begin work as soon as possible," says Walter Fowler, compliance specialist with Princess Tours. Training and testing methods address several learning styles, are offered in eight languages and make the information accessible to everyone, nearly everywhere.

"We can be confident that more and more Alaskans who are preparing our food are knowledgeable about food safety," said Kristin Ryan, DEC's Environmental Health Director. "Our goal is to keep Alaskans healthy and the success of this program supports that goal."

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To learn more about food safety in Alaska and about the Food Service Worker Card log onto our website at www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/index.htm or call 1-87-SAFE FOOD.

