

**North Carolina Department of
Environment And Natural Resources**

Division of Environmental Health

Michael F. Easley, Governor
William G. Ross, Jr., Secretary
Linda C. Sewall, Director
Michael U. Rhodes, Section Chief



August 23, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental Health Supervisors, Directors, and Coordinators

FROM: Worth Heath, Jr., RS, MPA
Field Supervisor
Children's Environmental Health Branch

THROUGH: Ed Norman, MPH, Program Manager
Children's Environmental Health Branch

SUBJECT: Initial Inspection of New Child Care Centers and Scheduling Routine Inspections

Two questions have been raised concerning the inspection of child care centers. The first deals with the initial inspection and posting of the sanitation classification card for newly licensed centers. Completion of an inspection sheet with at least a Superior rating is required before the Division of Child Development will license a center. However, the initial inspection only covers construction and equipment items since no children are present and the actual operations and procedures of the center cannot be observed.

Administrative rule 15 NCAC 18A .2834 (a) states that the sanitation classification “is based on the center’s compliance with the standards for construction **and operation** found in this Section.” In other words, another inspection is required preferably within two weeks of when the center opens. Posting of the sanitation classification card should be done after this full inspection.

The second question involves the requirement in 15 NCAC 18A .2803 (a) that unannounced inspections be made “at least once each six months.” The recommended scheduling method is to use the calendar year and inspect once during the January to June six-month period and once during the July to December six-month period. This approach is consistent with the restaurant inspection requirement of once each calendar year quarter.

If you have questions, please contact me at (252) 522-2253 or by email at worth.heath@ncmail.net or contact Ed Norman at (919) 715-3293 or ed.norman@ncmail.net.

cc: Environmental Health Listserv